STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No.6

12p

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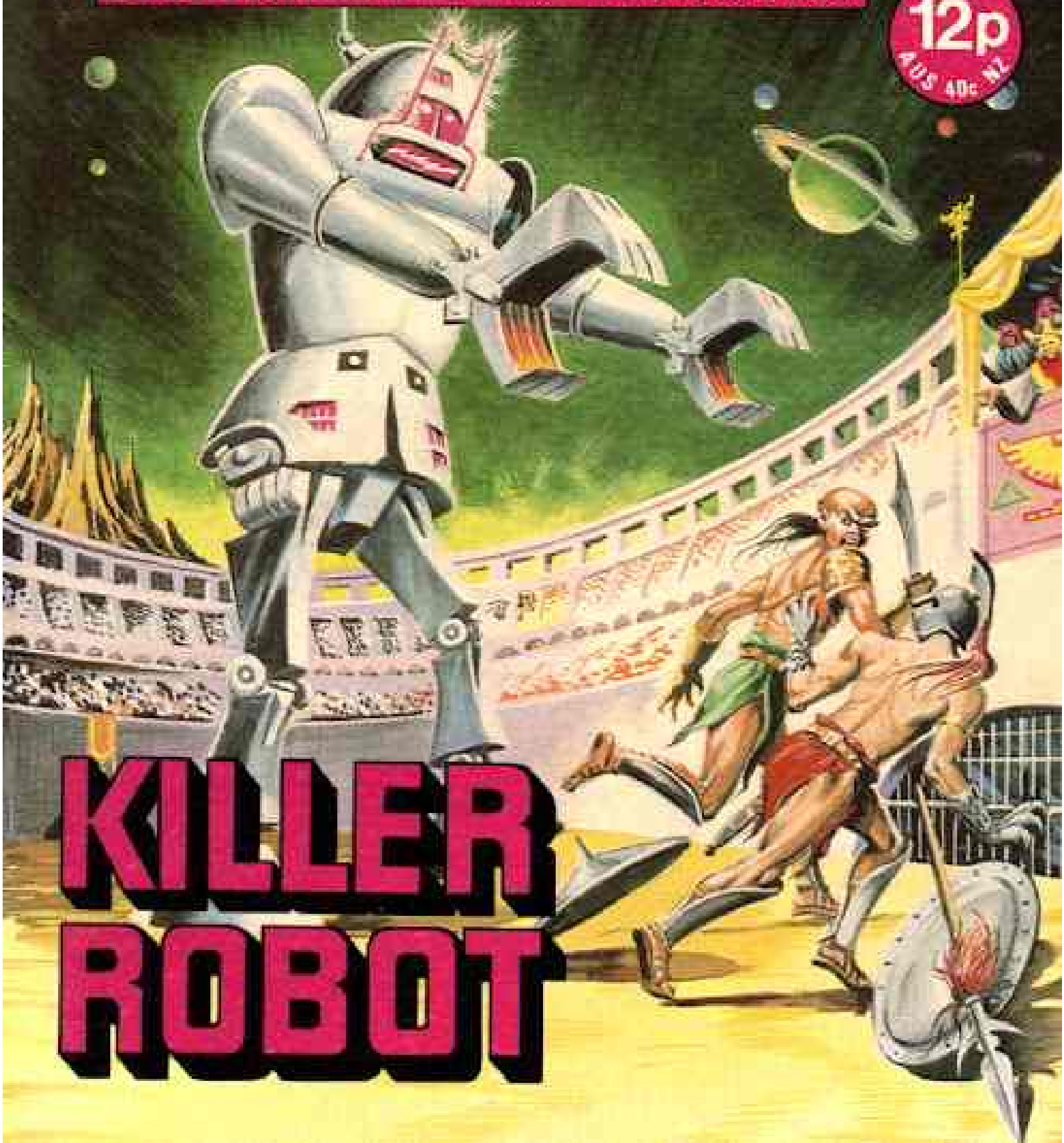
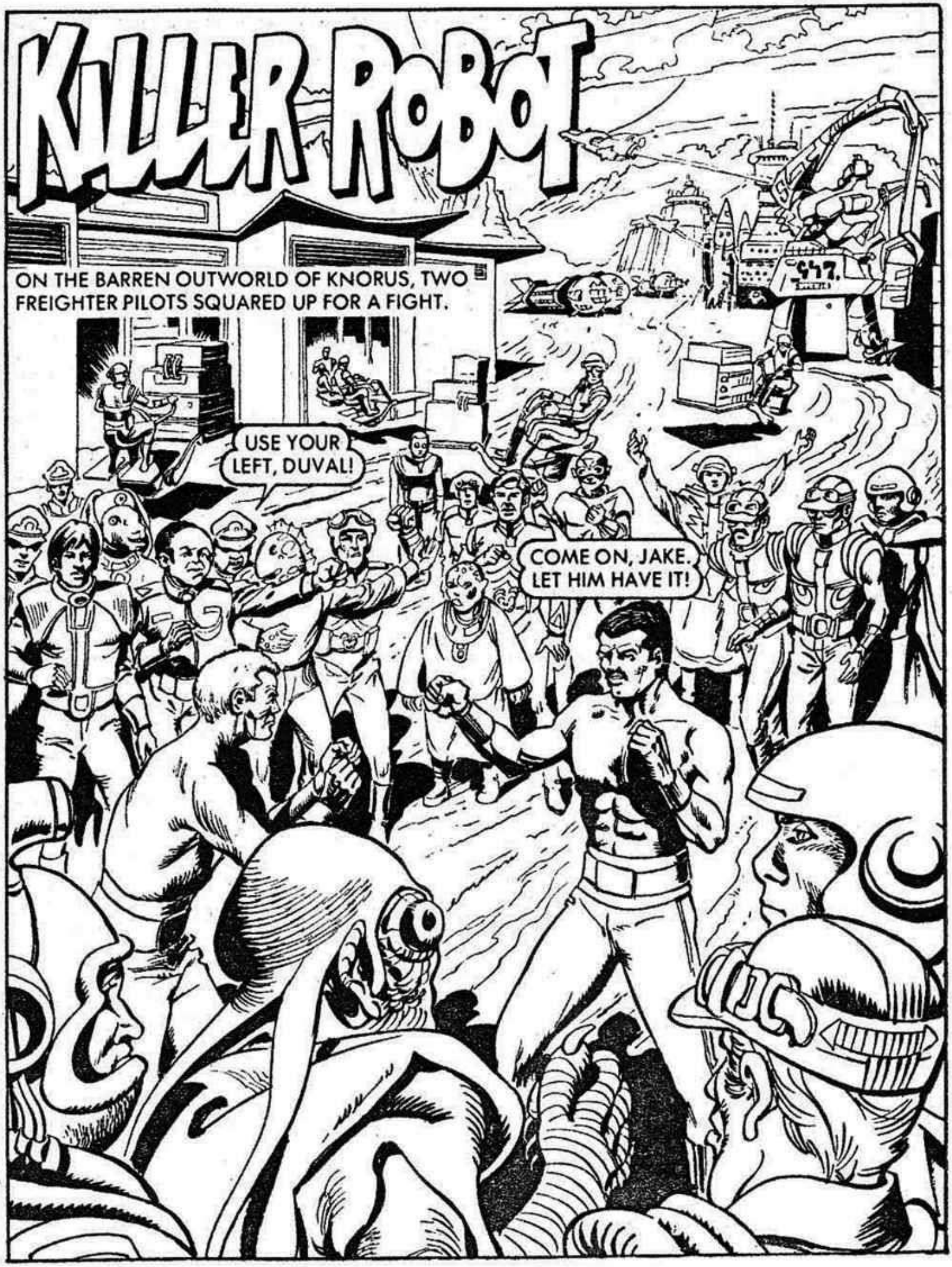


KILLER ROBOT

STARBLAZER

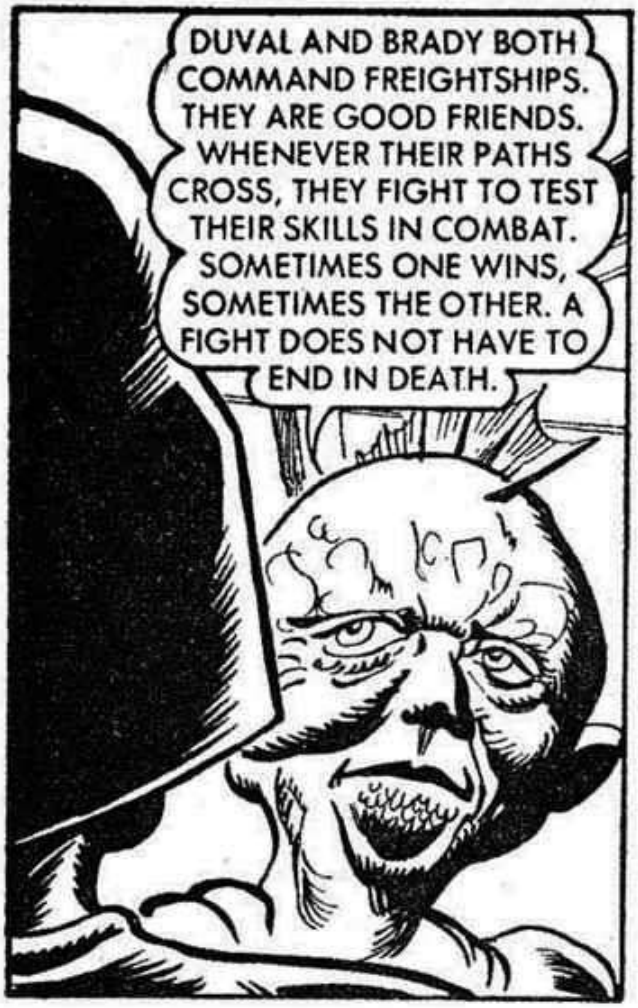
All the planets in the Galactic Federation adhered to the first Law of Robotics . . . that a robot must not injure a human being, or through inaction allow a human to come to harm. But some planets refused to join the Galactic Federation, and a few of those planets had their own Law of Robotics . . . such a planet was Akor . . .


KILLER ROBOT
ON THE BARREN OUTWORLD OF KNORUS, TWO FREIGHTER PILOTS SQUARED UP FOR A FIGHT.
USE YOUR LEFT, DUVAL!
COME ON, JAKE. LET HIM HAVE IT!

JAKE BRADY AND ANDREW DUVAL HAD FOUGHT EACH OTHER MANY TIMES.
CAUGHT YOU, BRADY.
TWO ALIENS FROM AKOR OBSERVED THE FIGHT.
THEY FIGHT WITH COURAGE AND SKILL. THEY WOULD PERFORM WELL AT THE GAMES.

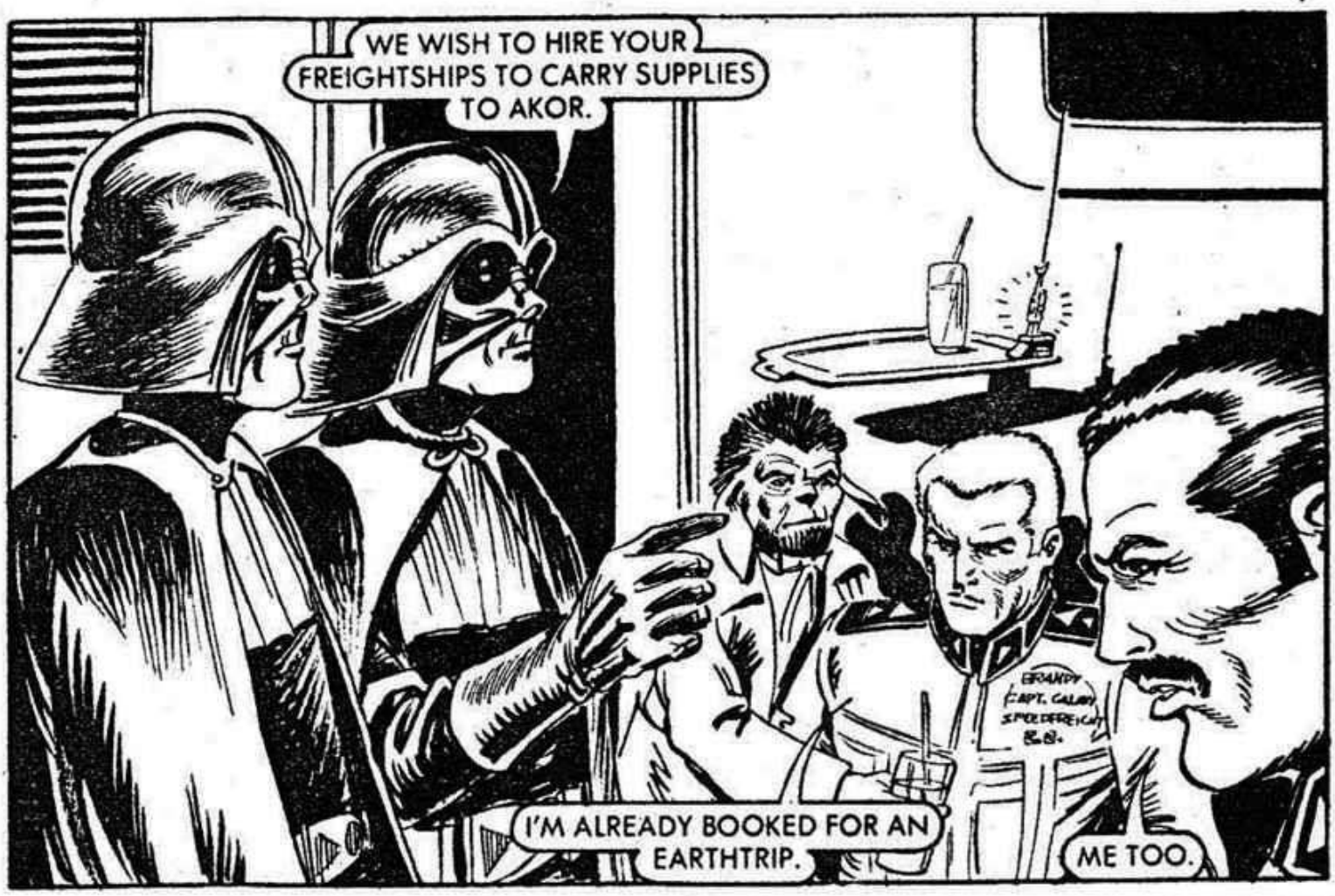
THE FIGHT RAGED ON, UNTIL . . .
ENOUGH! YOU'VE GOT THE EDGE ON ME THIS TIME, BRADY.
NOW WE SHALL WITNESS THE KILL.

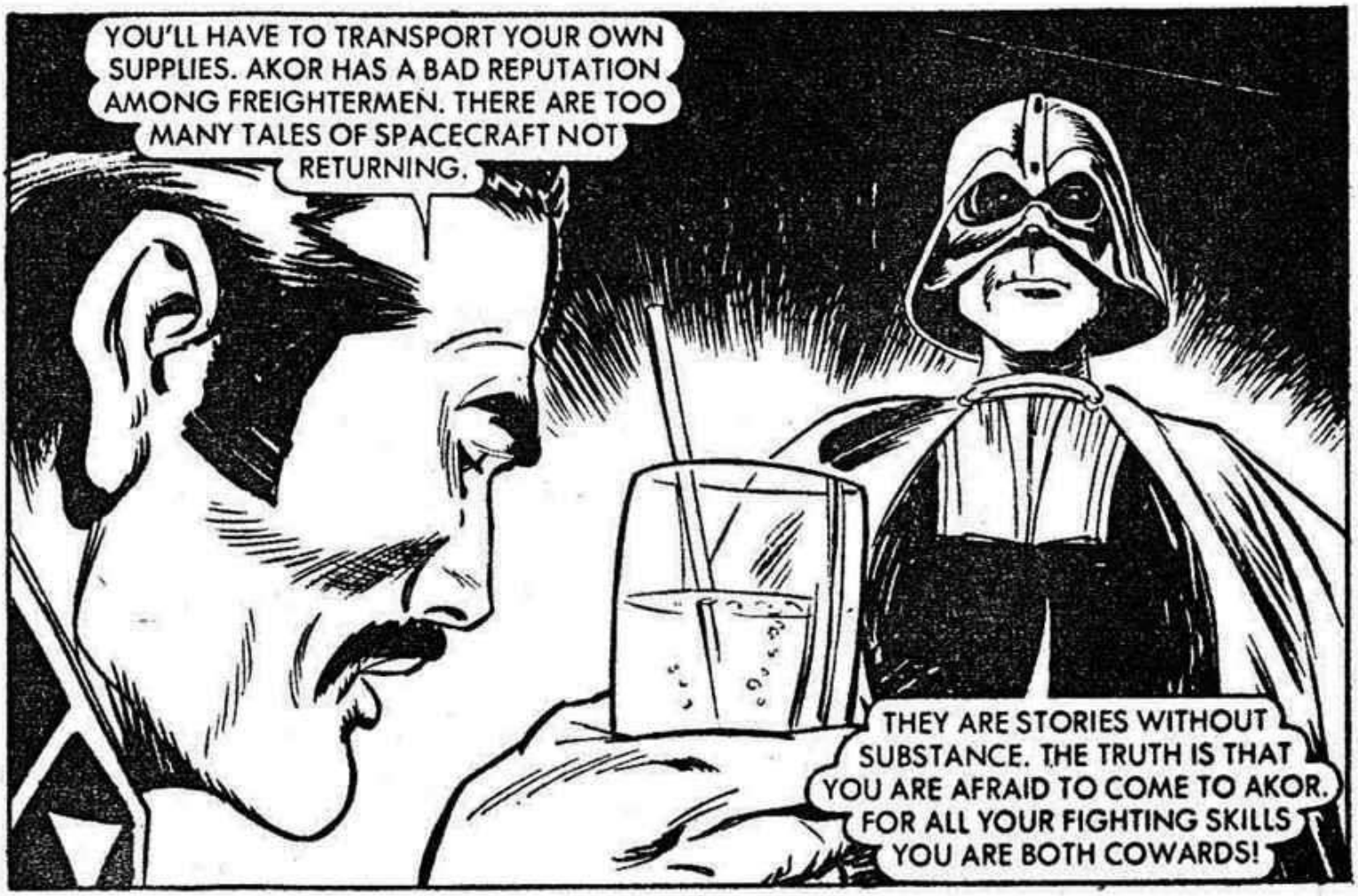
YOU EXPECTED A KILL? NOT ALL CREATURES ARE BLOODTHIRSTY LIKE YOU AKORIANS.
WHY FIGHT, IF NOT TO KILL?


DUVAL AND BRADY BOTH COMMAND FREIGHTSHIPS. THEY ARE GOOD FRIENDS. WHENEVER THEIR PATHS CROSS, THEY FIGHT TO TEST THEIR SKILLS IN COMBAT. SOMETIMES ONE WINS, SOMETIMES THE OTHER. A FIGHT DOES NOT HAVE TO END IN DEATH.

JAKE AND DREW WERE FRESHENING UP AFTER THE FIGHT.
IT WAS THE HEAT, JAKE. TOO HOT FOR A REAL FIGHT. REMEMBER HOW I BEAT YOU LAST TIME? ON THE PLANET XENOR—IT WAS A WHOLE LOT COOLER THERE.
YOU'RE JUST MAKING EXCUSES, I'M TOO GOOD FOR YOU.

THE AKORIAN WARRIORS HAD NOT LOST INTEREST IN BRADY AND DUVAL BY MEALTIME.
LOOKS LIKE THOSE AKORIANS ARE HEADING THIS WAY. FRIENDS OF YOURS?
AKORIANS ARE FRIENDS OF NO ONE.


WE WISH TO HIRE YOUR FREIGHTSHIPS TO CARRY SUPPLIES TO AKOR.
I'M ALREADY BOOKED FOR AN EARTHTRIP.
ME TOO.


YOU'LL HAVE TO TRANSPORT YOUR OWN SUPPLIES. AKOR HAS A BAD REPUTATION AMONG FREIGHTERMEN. THERE ARE TOO MANY TALES OF SPACECRAFT NOT RETURNING.
THEY ARE STORIES WITHOUT SUBSTANCE. THE TRUTH IS THAT YOU ARE AFRAID TO COME TO AKOR. FOR ALL YOUR FIGHTING SKILLS YOU ARE BOTH COWARDS!

I FEAR NOTHING—LEAST OF ALL AKORIANS.
EASY, DREW.

PUSH OFF, BOTH OF YOU. IF YOUR PLANET JOINED THE GALACTIC FEDERATION, AND IF YOU'D ALLOW VISITORS TO AKOR, YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELVES BEING TREATED WITH A BIT MORE FRIENDLINESS AND TRUST.

THE AKORIAN WARRIORS LEFT WITHOUT A WORD.
I'VE GOT A STRANGE FEELING WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF THOSE TWO.

BRADY WAS RIGHT. LATER THAT NIGHT.
WHAT THE . . . ???
SEIZE HIM!

SO ITS A FIGHT YOU WANT? WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?

THE FIGHT WAS SOON OVER. THE AKORIAN USED A NERVE PARALYSING GAS.
RESISTANCE IS FOOLISH, EARTHMAN!

NO ONE OBSERVED THE SHADOWY FIGURES HEADING FOR THE LANDING AREA WHERE THE AKORIAN SPACE-CRAFT WAS WAITING.
WE HAVE THEM BOTH! COME, LET US DEPART.

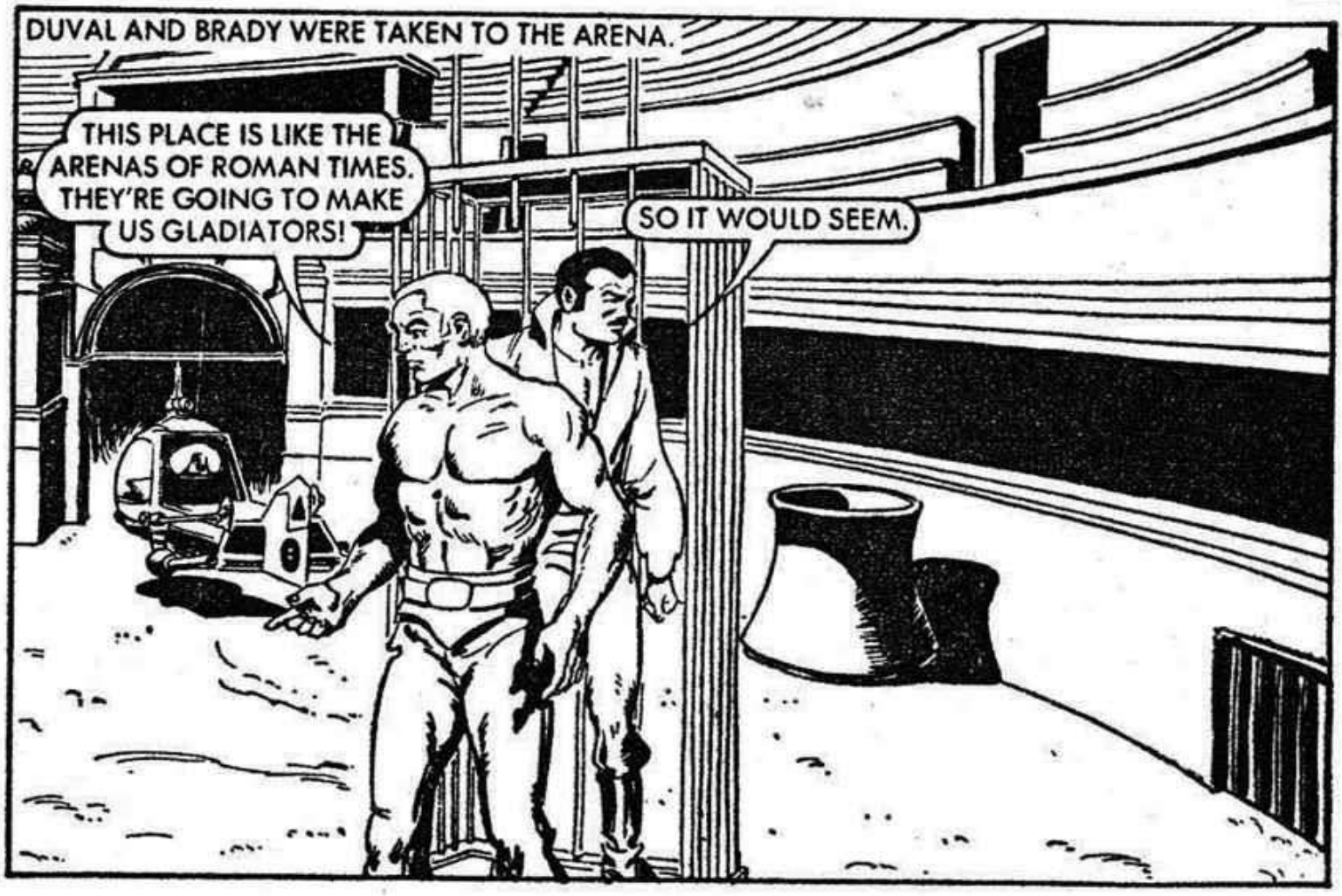
BUT THE WHOLE FREIGHT AREA WAS JERKED AWAKE AS THE CRAFT MADE AN UNSCHEDULED TAKE OFF.
WHAT A NOISE. DON'T THEY KNOW THE RULES ABOUT NIGHT BLAST OFFS?
IT'S THAT AKORIAN CRAFT— THEY MAKE THEIR OWN RULES!

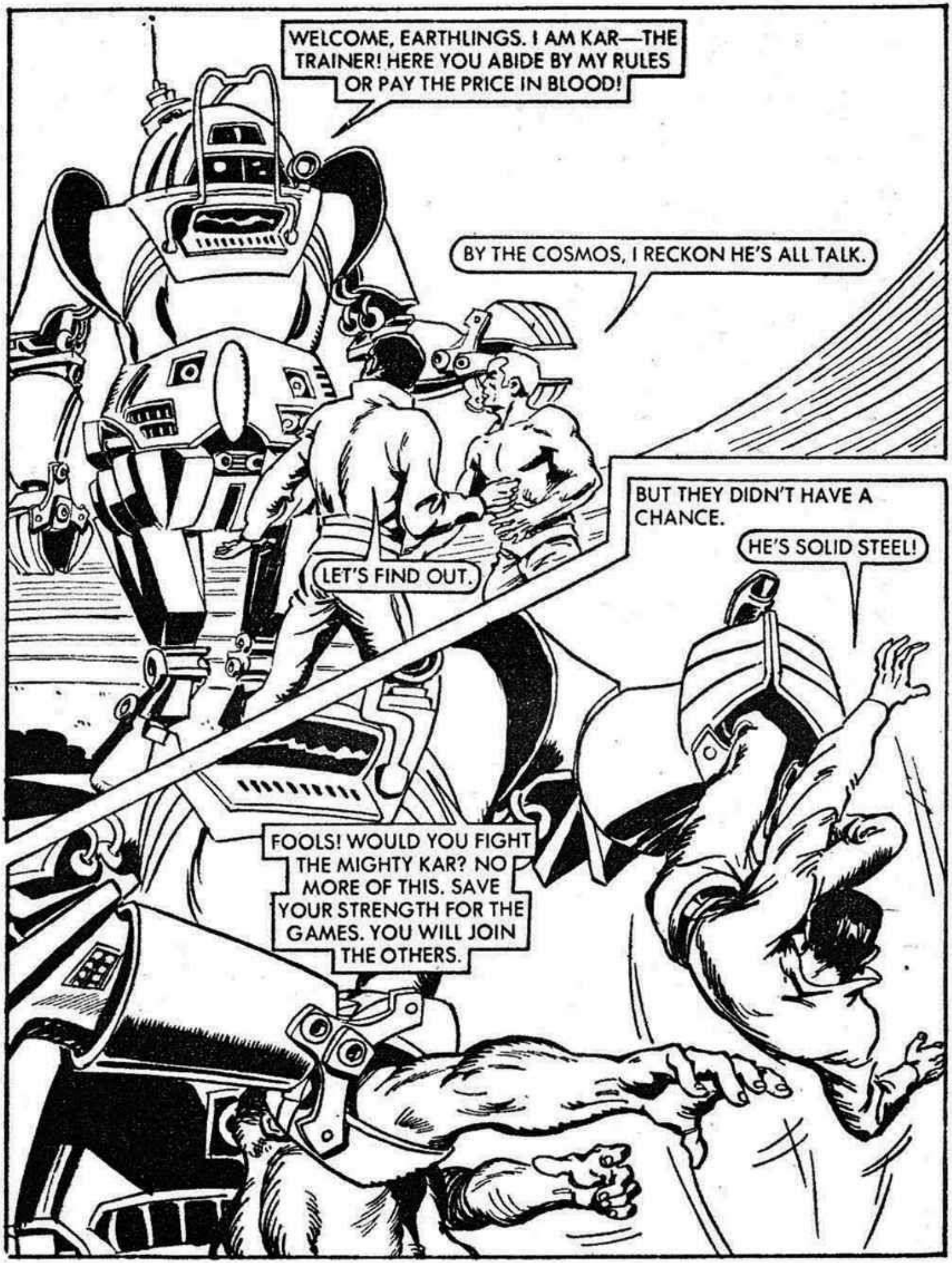
BRADY AWOKE ABOARD THE AKORIAN CRAFT TO FIND DUVAL BY HIS SIDE.
UGHH! MY HEAD! WHERE ARE WE?
IN TROUBLE! THESE AKORIANS HAVE KIDNAPPED US.

KIDNAPPED . . . NO! YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO TAKE PART IN THE AKORIAN GAMES OF DEATH. THERE CAN BE NO GREATER HONOUR.
ACCEPT YOUR FATE AND BE PROUD. ONLY THE MOST SKILLED AND COURAGEOUS FIGHTERS ARE CHOSEN FOR THE GAMES OF DEATH. FIGHT BRAVELY AND YOU WILL BE HONOURED AFTER DEATH.
WHEN I GET OUT OF HERE IT'LL BE YOUR LIFE THAT'S IN DANGER, NOT MINE!
CALM DOWN! WE'LL HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THIS.

THE AKORIAN SPACECRAFT SPED THROUGH THE DARK OUTER REACHES OF SPACE TOWARDS ITS HOME PLANET.
IT'S NO GOOD TRYING ANYTHING YET, DREW. IF WE'RE GOING TO GET A CHANCE TO ESCAPE IT'LL BE AFTER WE LAND ON AKOR.
PRETTY SOON THESE SKULL FACED SKUNKS ARE GOING TO REGRET THEY EVER LAID HANDS ON US.

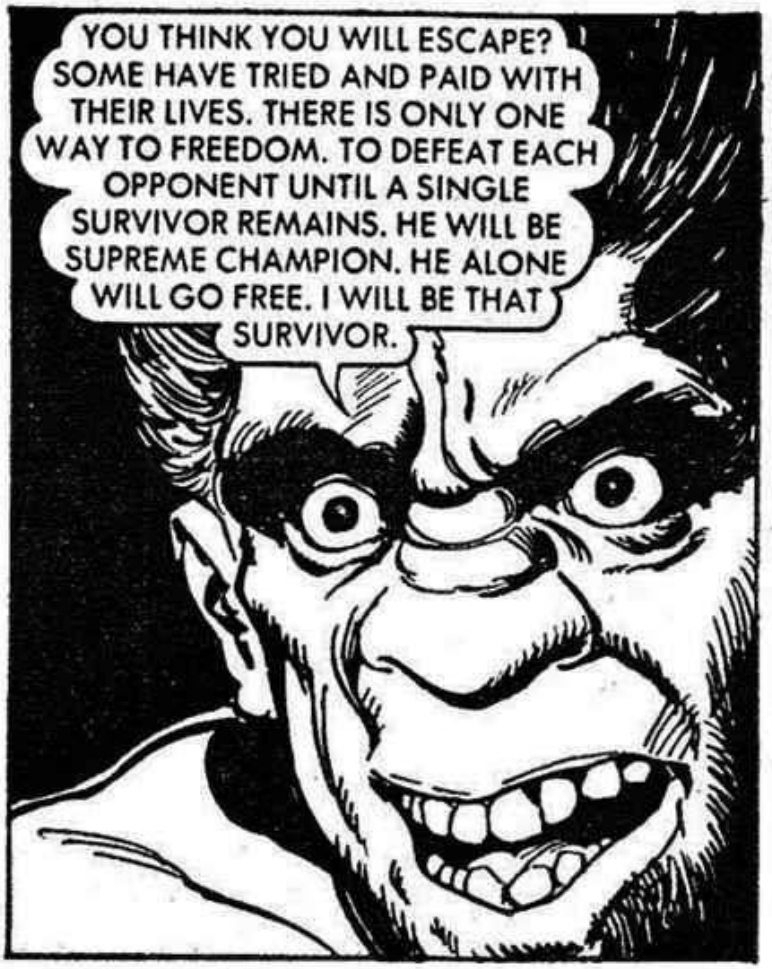
MANY SPACIALS LATER TWO CRAMPED AND TIRED EARTHMEN WERE UNLOADED FROM THE AKORIAN SPACECRAFT.
TWO MORE FOR THE GAMES.
PUNY EARTHLINGS! THEY DO NOT LAST LONG.


DUVAL AND BRADY WERE TAKEN TO THE ARENA.
THIS PLACE IS LIKE THE ARENAS OF ROMAN TIMES. THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE US GLADIATORS!
SO IT WOULD SEEM.


WELCOME, EARTHLINGS. I AM KAR—THE TRAINER! HERE YOU ABIDE BY MY RULES OR PAY THE PRICE IN BLOOD!
BY THE COSMOS, I RECKON HE'S ALL TALK.
BUT THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE.
HE'S SOLID STEEL!
LET'S FIND OUT.
FOOLS! WOULD YOU FIGHT THE MIGHTY KAR? NO MORE OF THIS. SAVE YOUR STRENGTH FOR THE GAMES. YOU WILL JOIN THE OTHERS.

DUVAL AND BRADY JOINED A STRANGE ASSORTMENT OF CREATURES FROM PLANETS AS FAR APART AS CETUS AND FALTORI.
TWO MORE ARRIVE WITH DREAMS OF BECOMING SUPREME CHAMPION OF GAMES.

FORGET YOUR DREAMS. I, GANO THE GREAT, WILL BECOME CHAMPION. ALL WILL FALL BEFORE ME.
WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ANYBODY. ALL WE WANT IS TO GET OUT OF HERE.


YOU THINK YOU WILL ESCAPE? SOME HAVE TRIED AND PAID WITH THEIR LIVES. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO FREEDOM. TO DEFEAT EACH OPPONENT UNTIL A SINGLE SURVIVOR REMAINS. HE WILL BE SUPREME CHAMPION. HE ALONE WILL GO FREE. I WILL BE THAT SURVIVOR.

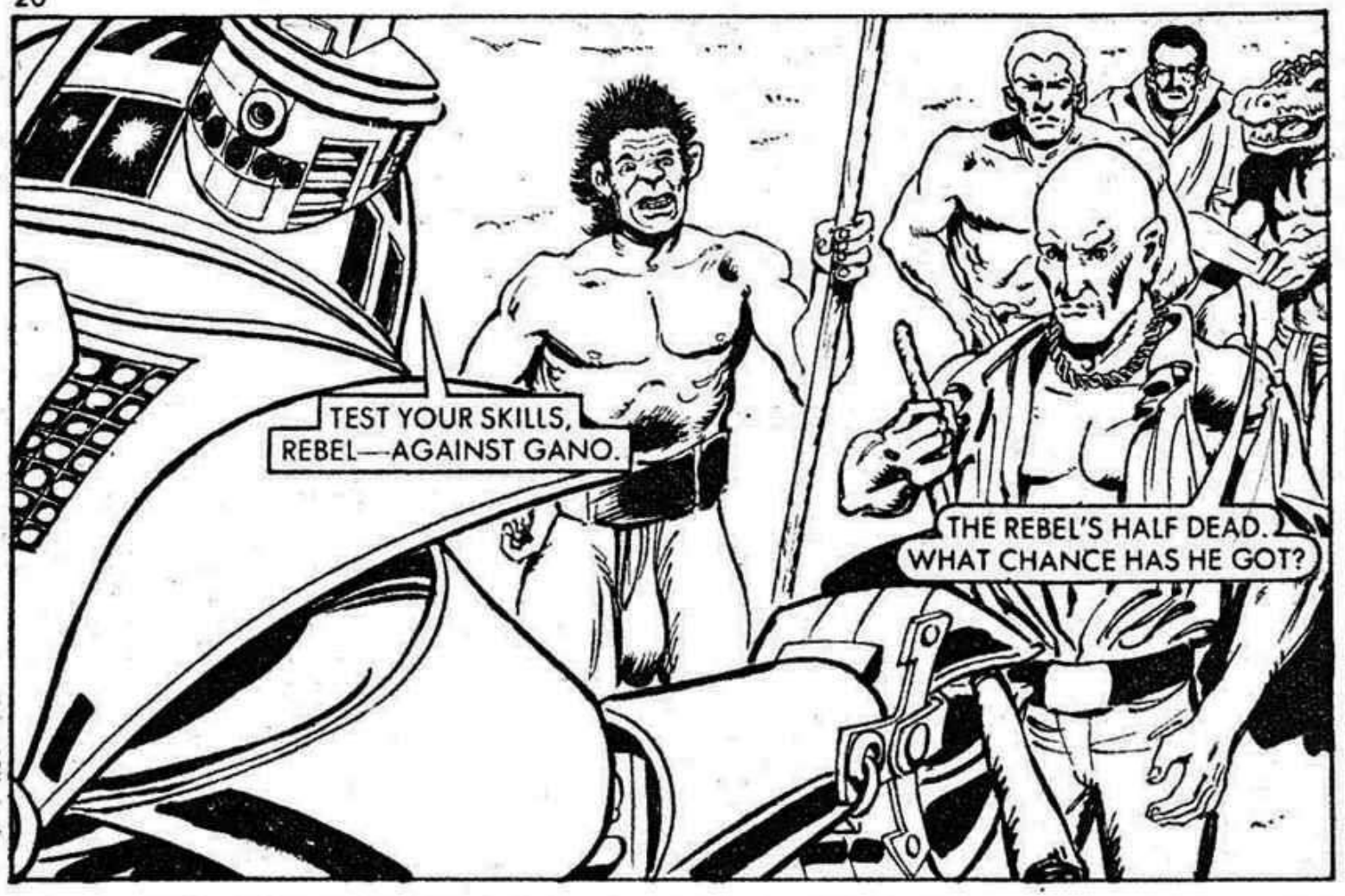
WE WERE ALL BROUGHT HERE AGAINST OUR WILL. MANY DO NOT WISH TO FIGHT, BUT FIGHT WE MUST. FORGET ESCAPE, AND MAKE NO FRIENDS—FOR FRIENDS ARE HARDER TO KILL.

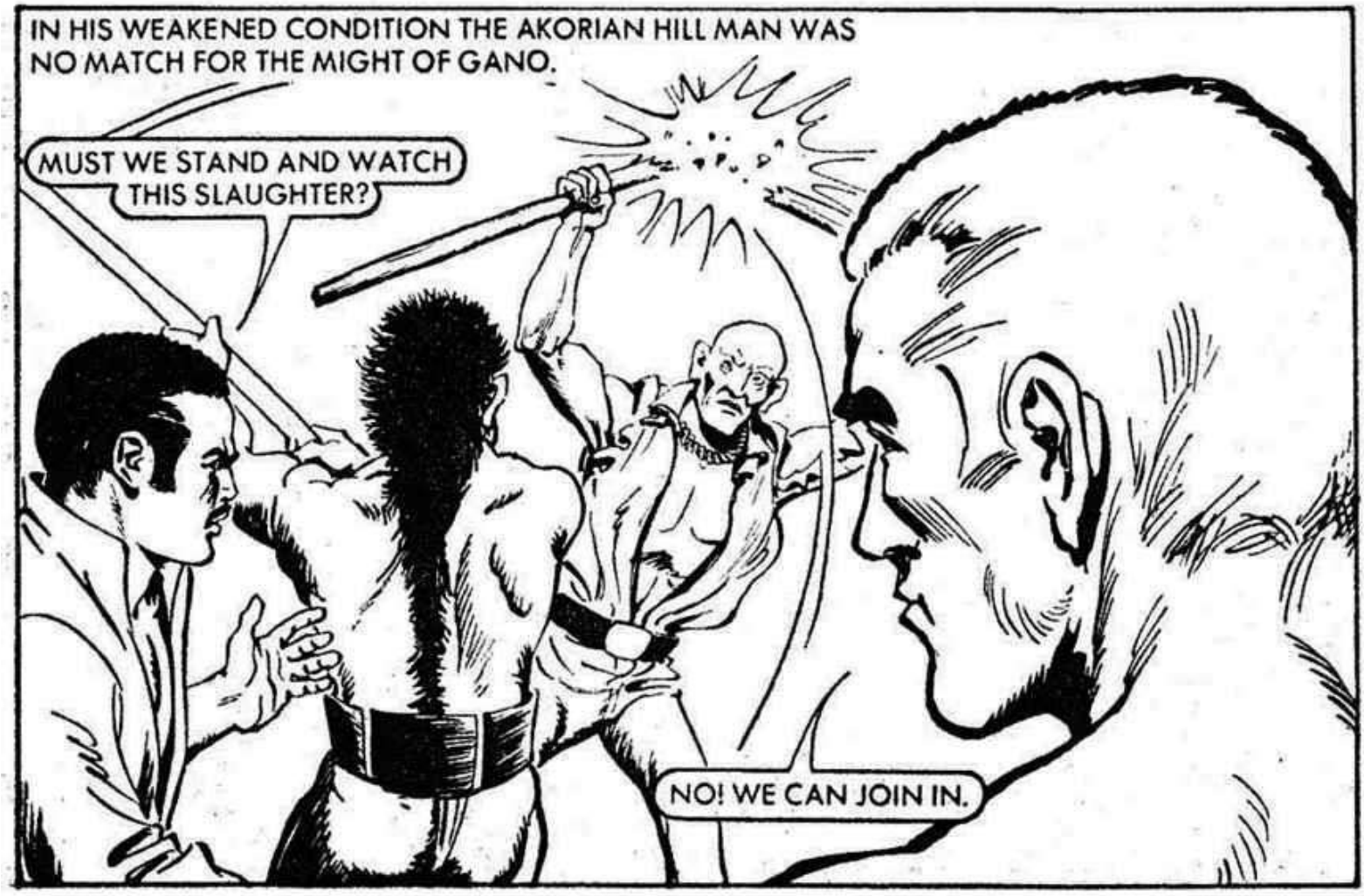
BUT DUVAL AND BRADY REFUSED TO GIVE UP HOPE OF ESCAPE.
KEEP UP YOUR GUARD. IT WILL BE SWORDS WE FIGHT WITH IN THE GAMES—NOT STICKS.

KENAR, THE REPTILE MAN FROM TANEK, GUESSED WHAT WAS IN BRADY'S MIND.

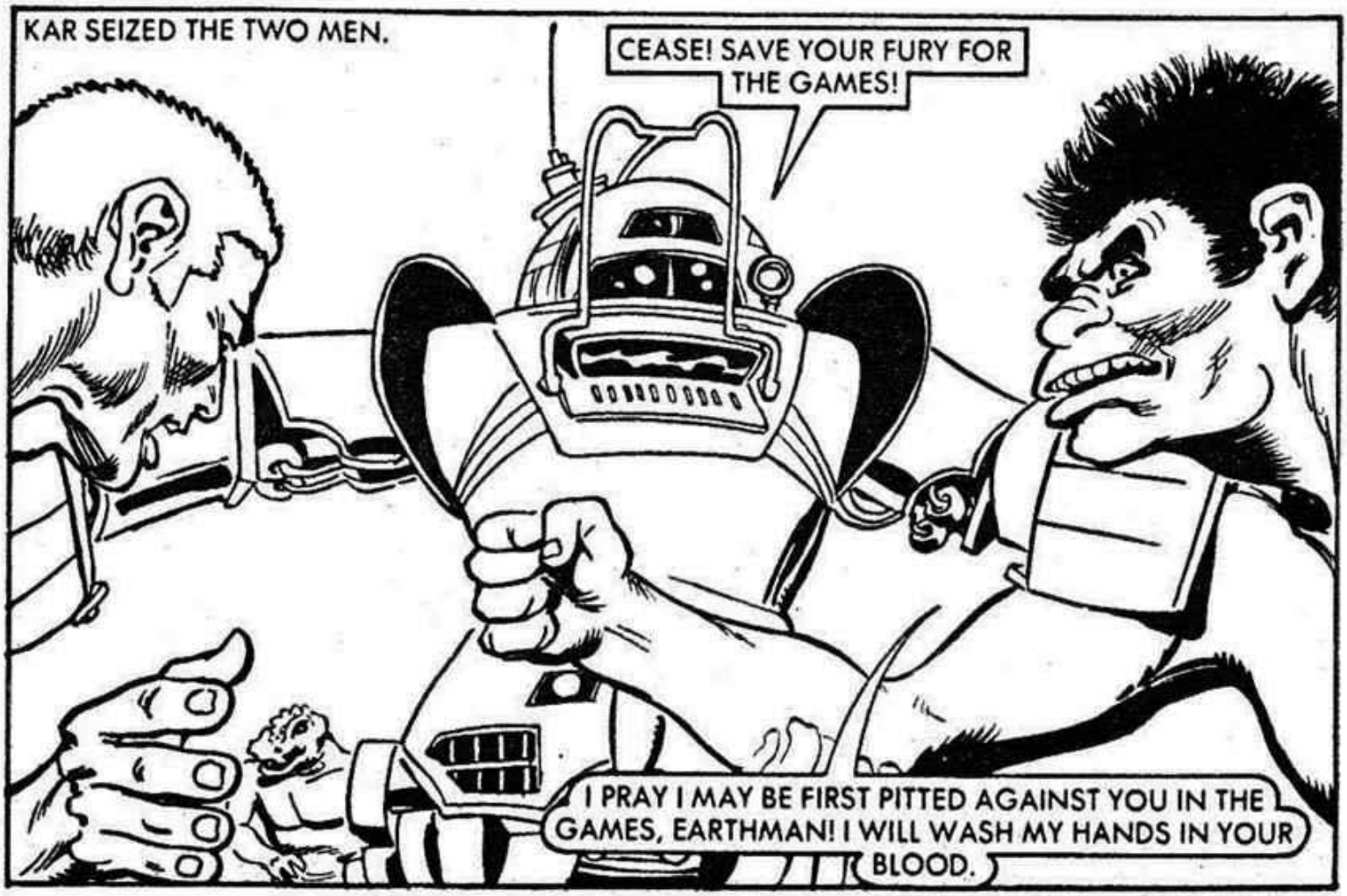
THE TRAINING SESSION WAS INTERRUPTED BY THE ARRIVAL OF ANOTHER PRISONER.
ANOTHER FOR THE GAMES, KAR. A REBEL FROM THE HILLS.

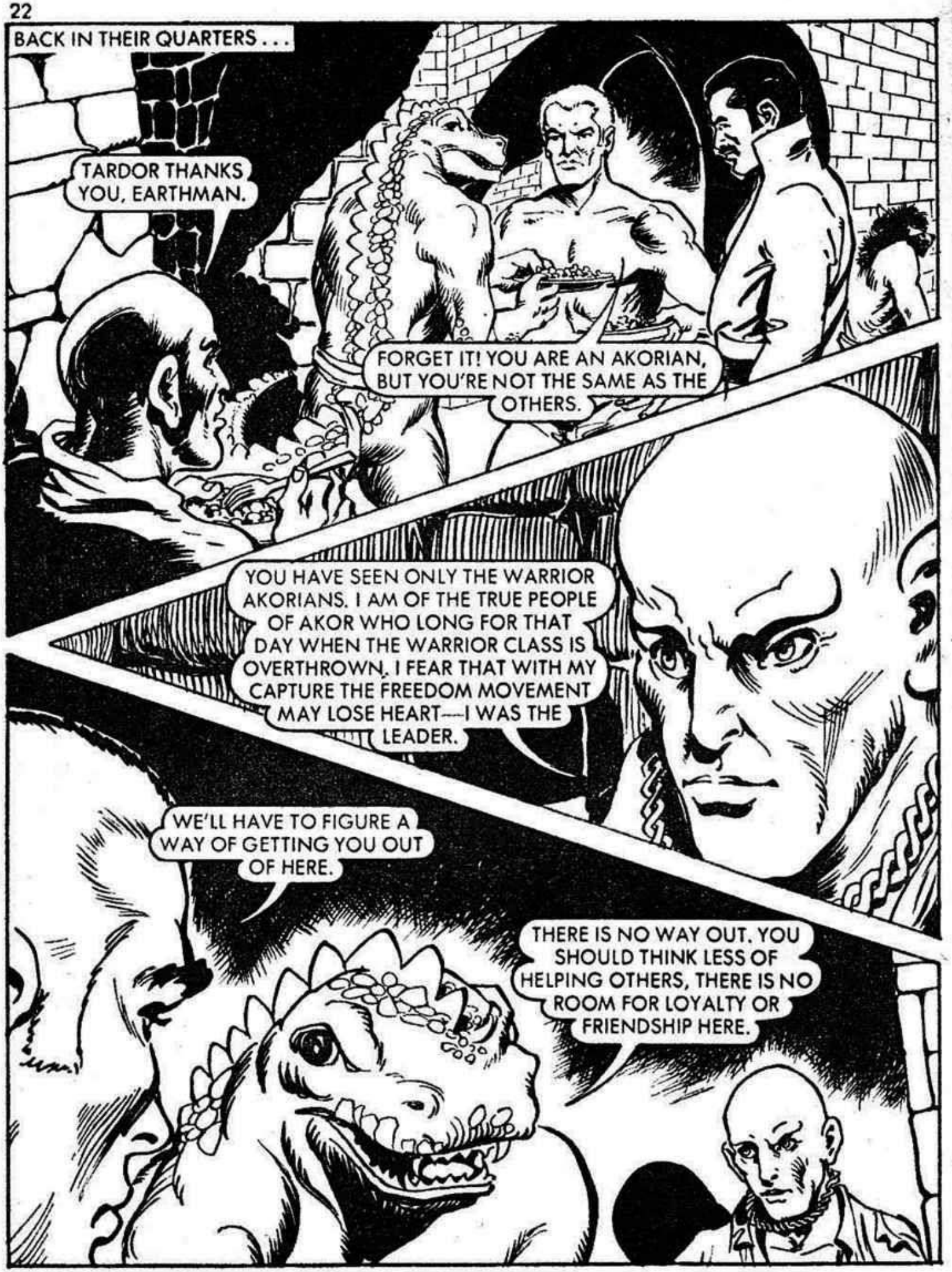
THE PUNISHMENT FOR REBELS IS DEATH. YOU ARE LUCKY TO BE SPARED.
SPARED? EVEN IF I SURVIVE TO BECOME SUPREME CHAMPION I MUST FIGHT MY FINAL BATTLE WITH KAR. FOR I SHALL NEVER TAKE THE CHAMPION'S OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE LEADERS OF AKOR!


TEST YOUR SKILLS, REBEL—AGAINST GANO.
THE REBEL'S HALF DEAD. WHAT CHANCE HAS HE GOT?


IN HIS WEAKENED CONDITION THE AKORIAN HILL MAN WAS NO MATCH FOR THE MIGHT OF GANO.
MUST WE STAND AND WATCH THIS SLAUGHTER?
NO! WE CAN JOIN IN.

NO, DUVAL! LEAVE IT TO BRADY. ONE HERO IS ENOUGH.


KAR SEIZED THE TWO MEN.
CEASE! SAVE YOUR FURY FOR THE GAMES!
I PRAY I MAY BE FIRST PITTED AGAINST YOU IN THE GAMES, EARTHMAN! I WILL WASH MY HANDS IN YOUR BLOOD.


BACK IN THEIR QUARTERS . . .
TARDOR THANKS YOU, EARTHMAN.
FORGET IT! YOU ARE AN AKORIAN, BUT YOU'RE NOT THE SAME AS THE OTHERS.
YOU HAVE SEEN ONLY THE WARRIOR AKORIANS. I AM OF THE TRUE PEOPLE OF AKOR WHO LONG FOR THAT DAY WHEN THE WARRIOR CLASS IS OVERTHROWN. I FEAR THAT WITH MY CAPTURE THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT MAY LOSE HEART—I WAS THE LEADER.
WE'LL HAVE TO FIGURE A WAY OF GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE.
THERE IS NO WAY OUT. YOU SHOULD THINK LESS OF HELPING OTHERS, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR LOYALTY OR FRIENDSHIP HERE.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO KILL EACH OTHER IN THE GAMES AND FINISH AS MEAT TO FEED THE LION DOGS IN THE PIT.
THE PIT! YES, THAT'S IT.

WE'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF THAT. THE TUNNEL DOOR IS ONLY OPENED ON THE DAY OF THE GAMES—TO LET THE LION DOGS IN. THEY'D TEAR YOU APART.
BUT I WEAR THIS REED CHARM AT MY NECK.

THE HILLMEN OF AKOR USED LION DOGS FOR HUNTING.
THIS CHARM CONTAINS A SCENT WHICH LION DOGS DETEST. THEY WILL NOT ATTACK ME WHILE I WEAR IT.
THEN IT SHALL BE YOU WHO ESCAPES THROUGH THE TUNNEL ON THE DAY OF THE GAMES.
AT SOME TIME DURING THE CONTEST ONE OF US WILL BE PICKED AS YOUR OPPONENT. WHOEVER IT IS WILL PRETEND TO KILL YOU AND THEN THROW YOU INTO THE PIT.
THE AKORIANS MUST NOT GUESS YOU ARE STILL ALIVE.
BUT WHAT OF YOU, MY FRIENDS? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOU?
WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUR CHANCES. YOU CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING, THOUGH, WE'RE NOT GOING TO KILL ONE ANOTHER.
WRONG! I INTEND TO KILL ALL MY OPPONENTS, WHOEVER THEY MAY BE!

THE HOURS OF STRENUOUS TRAINING LEFT LITTLE TIME FOR PLOTTING ESCAPES. DAY FOLLOWED EXHAUSTING DAY, UNTIL . . .

. . . THE EAR SHATTERING BLAST OF THE TRUMPET CALLING THE LION DOGS ANNOUNCED THE DAY OF THE GAMES.

THE FIRST COMBATANTS WERE ANNOUNCED . . .
DUVAL AND BRADY. SWORDS—TO THE DEATH!
SO THE TWO FRIENDS MUST FIGHT. ONLY ONE OF YOU CAN SURVIVE. WHAT PRICE FRIENDSHIP NOW?

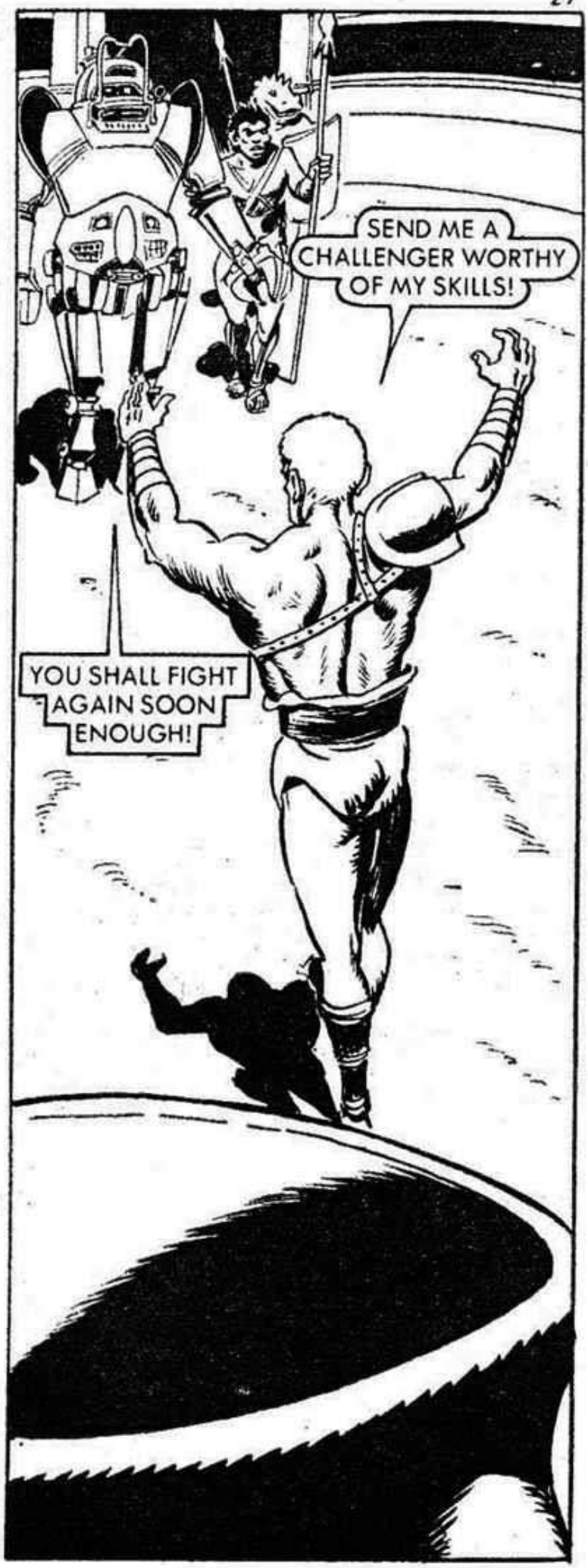
IF YOU DO NOT TRY TO KILL ONE ANOTHER, KAR WILL KILL YOU BOTH. TAKE THE NECKBAND. ONE OF YOU MUST TAKE HIS CHANCE WITH THE LION DOGS.
GIVE IT TO DREW.

WHEN YOU GET OUT YOU'VE GOT TO LET THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS KNOW THAT TARDOR IS STILL ALIVE.
THE FIGHT MUST GO ON! BUT I AM SAD TO BE LEAVING YOU.
EARTHLINGS, EH? THIS COULD BE INTERESTING. COMMENCE THE FIGHT!
BRADY LUNGED AT DUVAL.
THIS HAS GOT TO BE CONVINCING! KAR ISN'T GOING TO BE EASILY FOOLED.
YOU ALMOST CAUGHT ME!

DUVAL RETALIATED AND BRADY'S SWORD SNAPPED.
THIS COULD BE AWKWARD. NOW THEY'LL EXPECT HIM TO MAKE THE KILL.

BRADY LEAPT FOR DUVAL'S THROAT.
THIS IS IT! OUT YOU GO! BRACE YOURSELF.

GOOD LUCK, DREW.


SEND ME A CHALLENGER WORTHY OF MY SKILLS!
YOU SHALL FIGHT AGAIN SOON ENOUGH!

THE AKORIAN GRAND LEADER RAISED HIS HAND.
LET THE EARTH CREATURE STAY! IT IS MY WISH THAT HE FIGHTS GANO, THE MAN APE!
BUT HE IS UNARMED!
PREPARE TO DIE, EARTHMAN!

IN THE PIT, DREW FACED THE LION DOGS OF AKOR.
NOW WE SEE IF THE REED CHARM WORKS.

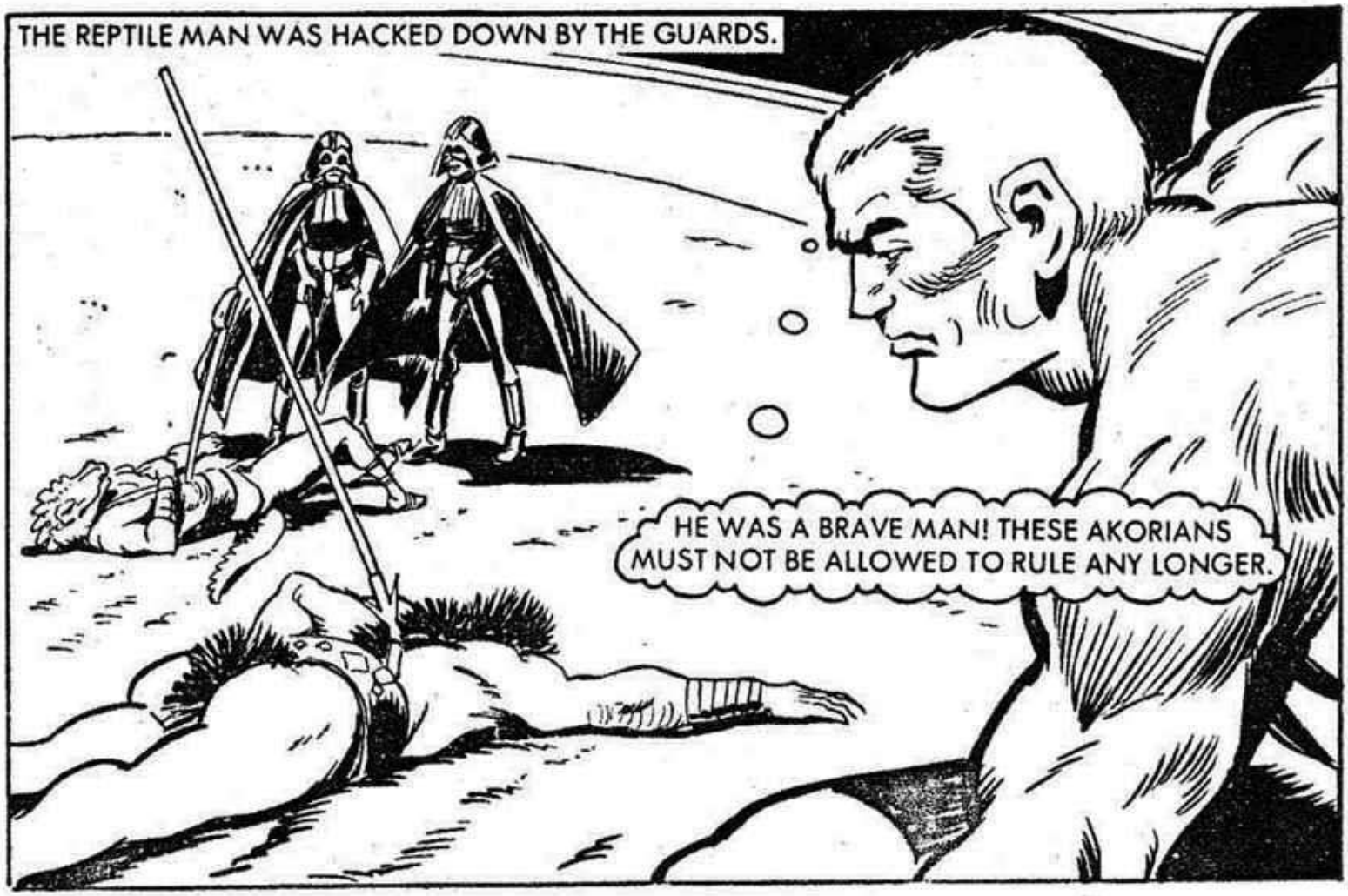
THEY'RE NOT ATTACKING! IT WORKS.

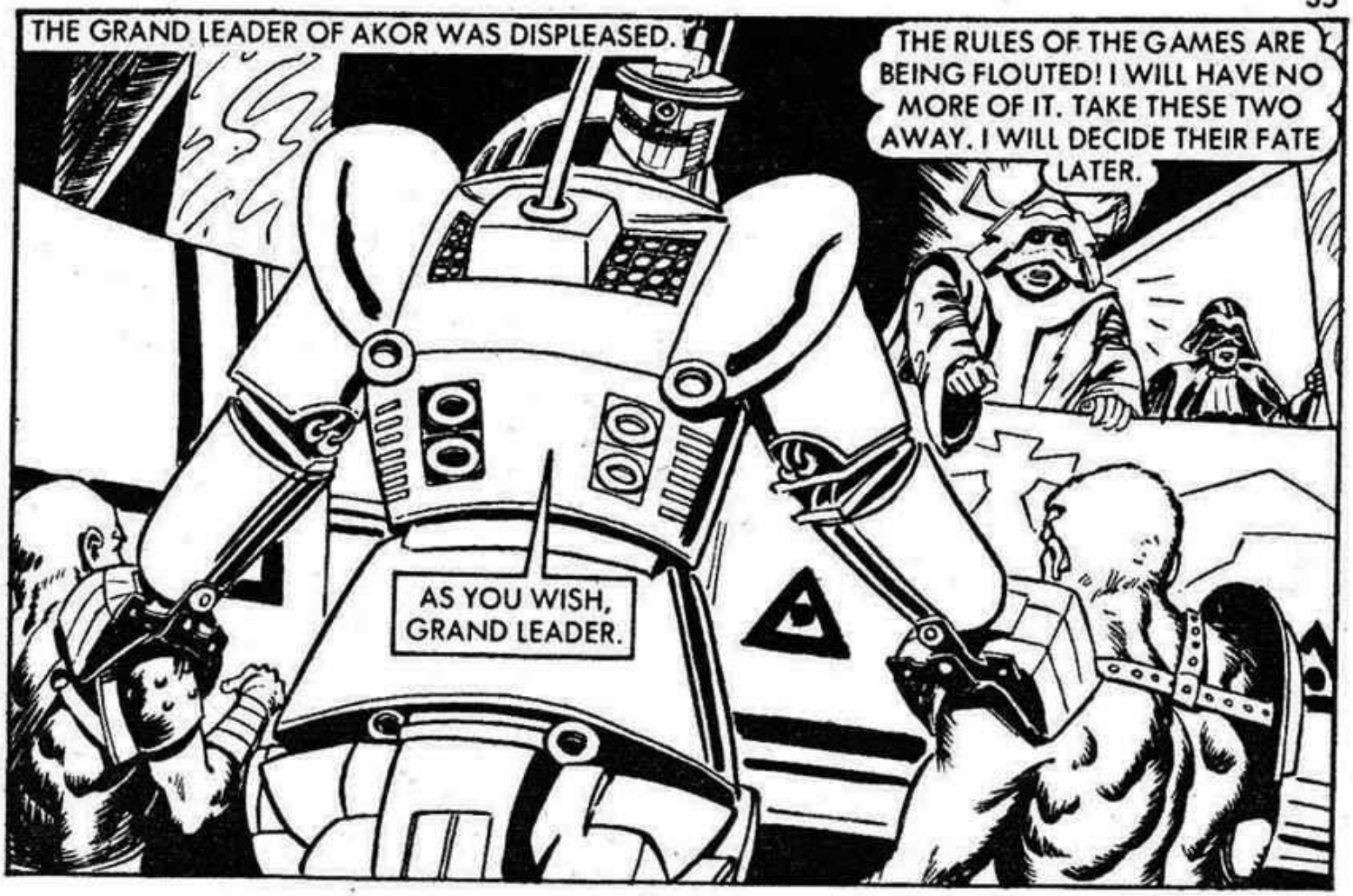
ABOVE DUVAL IN THE ARENA, BRADY WAS DICING WITH DEATH.
I MUST GET THAT SPEAR.
BRADY DODGED GANO'S THRUST, AND USED THE SPEAR AS A LEVER.
IT'S LIKE HITTING A BRICK WALL!

TARDOR WATCHED WITH HORROR AS GANO GAINED THE UPPER HAND.
BRADY MISJUDGED THE STRENGTH OF GANO! NOW HE IS FINISHED. WITHOUT A WEAPON HE HAS NO DEFENCE. I CANNOT LET THIS BE!

TARDOR BURST OUT INTO THE ARENA.
STOP HIM!
NOTHING CAN SAVE YOU NOW, EARTHMAN!

TARDOR DISTRACTED THE GUARDS LONG ENOUGH FOR THE REPTILE MAN TO AIM AND THROW HIS SPEAR.


THE REPTILE MAN WAS HACKED DOWN BY THE GUARDS.
HE WAS A BRAVE MAN! THESE AKORIANS MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO RULE ANY LONGER.


THE GRAND LEADER OF AKOR WAS DISPLEASED.
THE RULES OF THE GAMES ARE BEING FLOUTED! I WILL HAVE NO MORE OF IT. TAKE THESE TWO AWAY. I WILL DECIDE THEIR FATE LATER.
AS YOU WISH, GRAND LEADER.

IN THE CELL BLOCK, BRADY'S FURY EXPLODED INTO ACTION.
KEEP KAR OCCUPIED, TARDOR! A NOTION HAS JUST HIT ME.

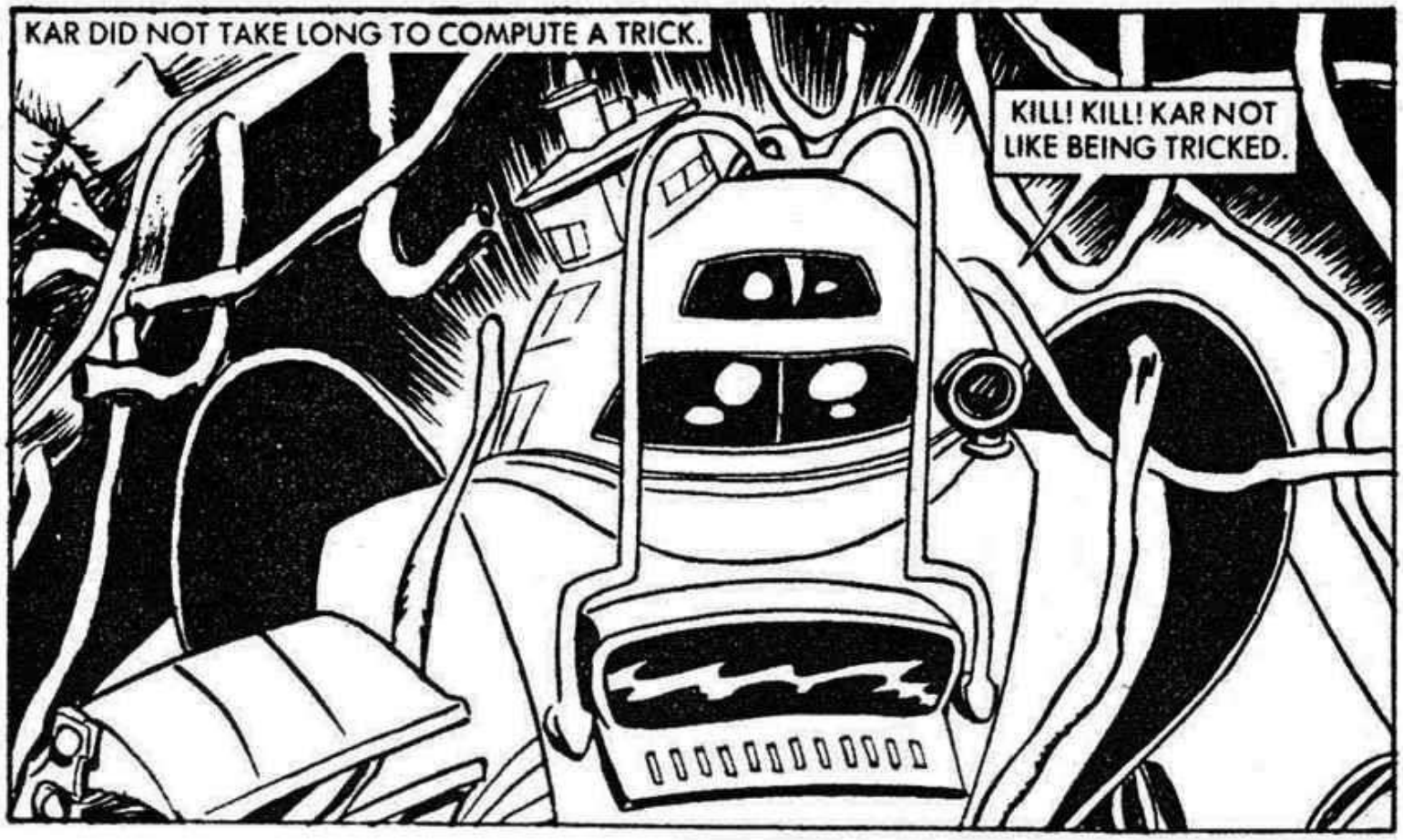
WHAT STUPIDITY IS THIS? NO ONE CAN DEFEAT KAR THE INVINCIBLE!

BRADY SWIFTLY DONNED THE GUARD'S HELMET AND CLOAK.
THIS HAD BETTER WORK OR WE'RE BOTH DEAD MEN!

RELEASE HIM!
I OBEY.

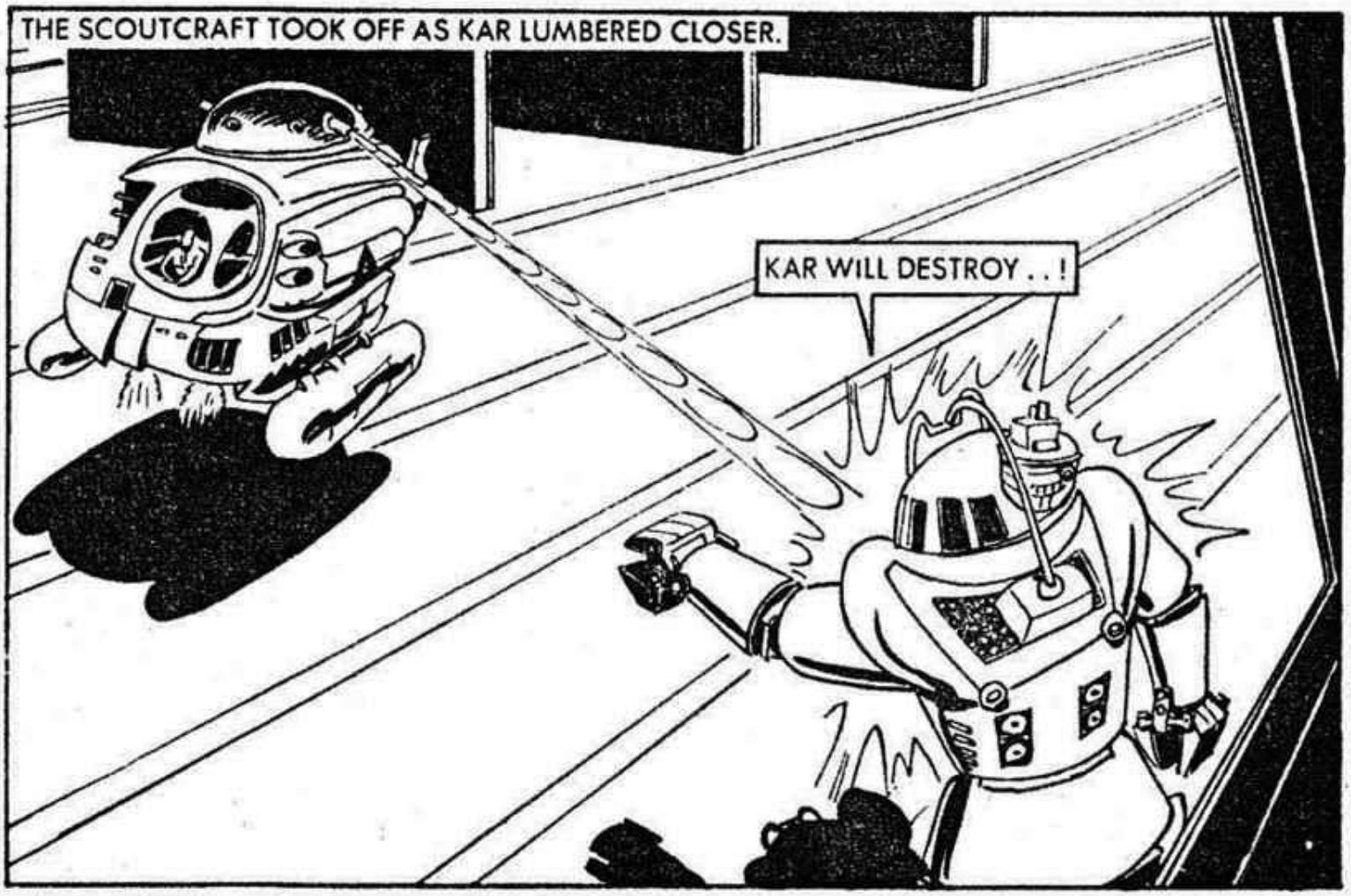
THE HUGE ROBOT WAS CONDITIONED TO OBEY ORDERS GIVEN BY AKORIAN WARRIORS, BUT HE KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG.
YOU WILL STAY IN THE CELL UNTIL FURTHER ORDERS. UNDERSTAND?
SUCH BEHAVIOUR DOES NOT COMPUTE . . . IT IS ILLOGICAL . . .

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE REALISES HE'S BEEN TRICKED.
WE MUST FIND A WAY OUT OF THE CITY.

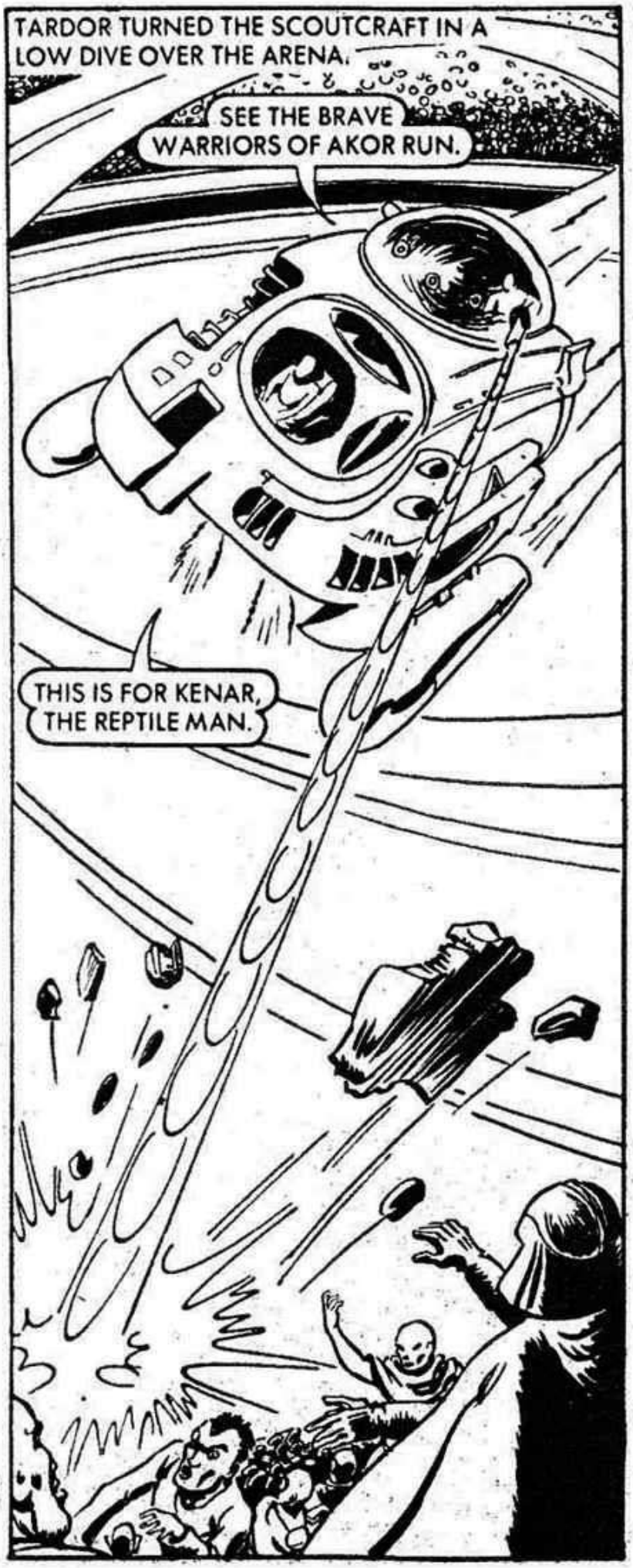

KAR DID NOT TAKE LONG TO COMPUTE A TRICK.
KILL! KILL! KAR NOT LIKE BEING TRICKED.

BRADY AND TARDOR MADE THEIR WAY UNDER THE ARENA.
NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE. I CAN FLY THOSE SCOUTCRAFT.
GOOD! I'LL MAN THE GUN TURRET.

FAREWELL, WARRIOR PIG!


THE SCOUTCRAFT TOOK OFF AS KAR LUMBERED CLOSER.
KAR WILL DESTROY . . !

THAT ROBOT REALLY IS INVINCIBLE!
KAR WILL KILL!

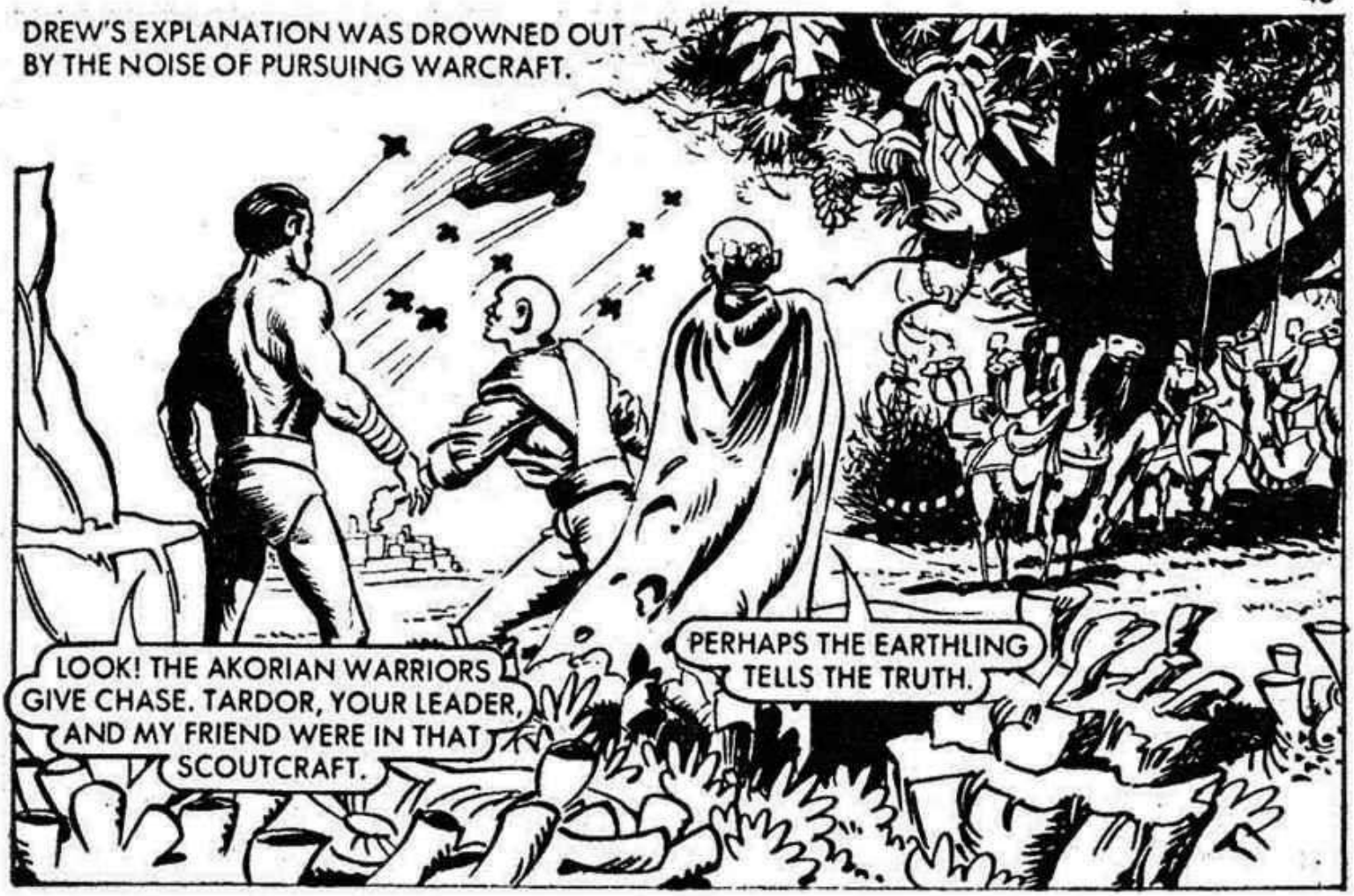

TARDOR TURNED THE SCOUTCRAFT IN A LOW DIVE OVER THE ARENA.
SEE THE BRAVE WARRIORS OF AKOR RUN.
THIS IS FOR KENAR, THE REPTILE MAN.

SEND WARCRAFT AFTER THEM! THEY MUST BE DESTROYED! CEASE THE GAMES. THERE WILL BE NO MORE GAMES UNTIL THOSE TWO ARE BROUGHT BEFORE ME— DEAD!

ON THE PLAIN BEYOND THE CITY, DREW DIVED FOR COVER.
AN AKORIAN SCOUTCRAFT! THEY MUST HAVE TWIGGED OUR PLAN AND ARE NOW SEARCHING FOR ME.

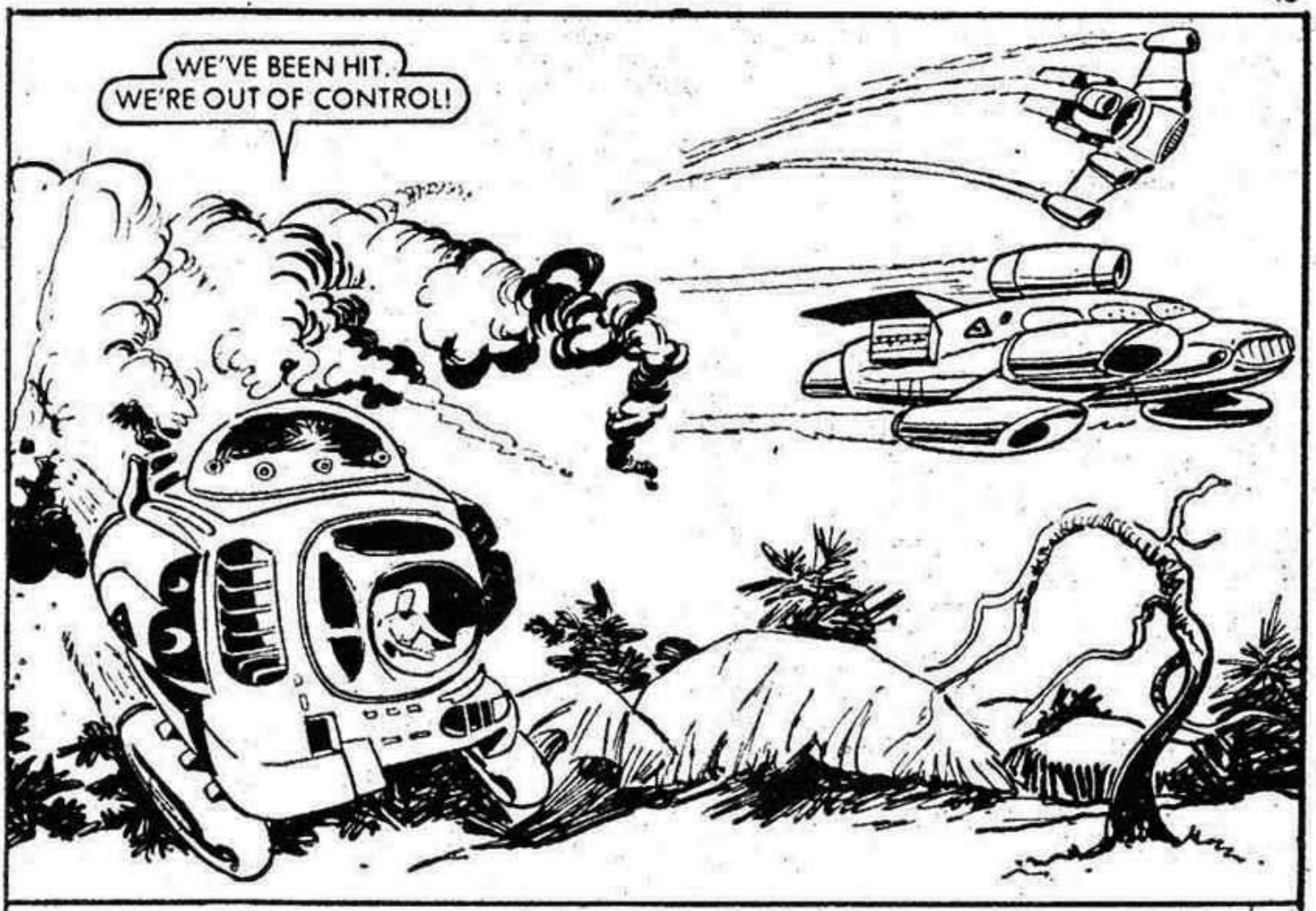
DREW RECOGNISED JAKE IN THE GUN TURRET.
THEY'RE NOT AKORIAN WARRIORS! IT'S JAKE! THEY HAVEN'T SEEN ME!

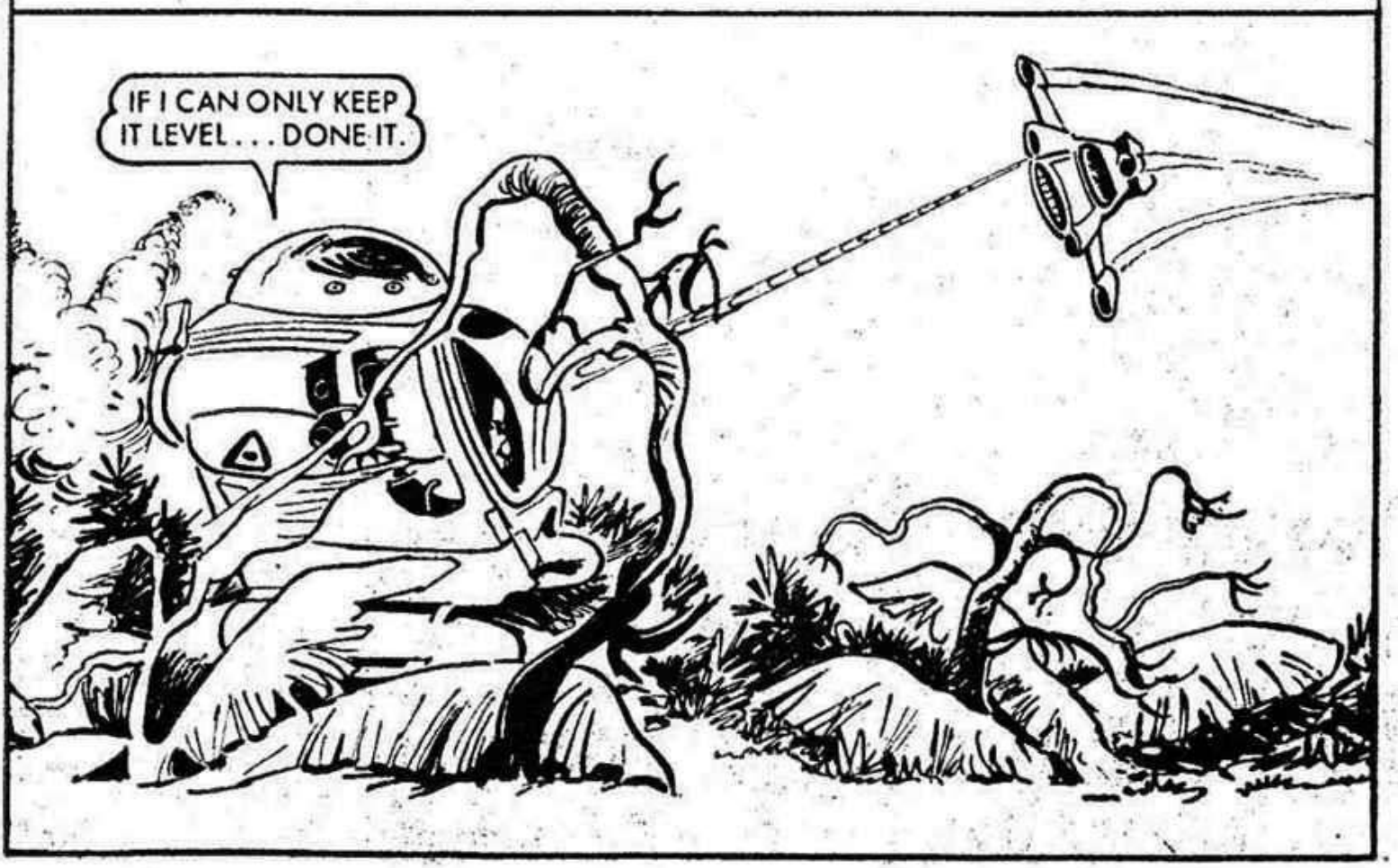
AN EARTHLING WHO TRIES TO ATTRACT THE AKORIAN SCOUTCRAFT. YOU WILL DIE . . . TRAITOR.
NO! I HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE CITY TO BRING WORD THAT TARDOR IS STILL ALIVE.
YOU LIE!


DREW'S EXPLANATION WAS DROWNED OUT BY THE NOISE OF PURSUING WARCRAFT.
LOOK! THE AKORIAN WARRIORS GIVE CHASE. TARDOR, YOUR LEADER, AND MY FRIEND WERE IN THAT SCOUTCRAFT.
PERHAPS THE EARTHLING TELLS THE TRUTH.

THE GROUP SET OUT IN HOT PURSUIT.
TARDOR AND YOUR EARTHLING FRIEND WILL NOT GET FAR. THEY HAVE LESS SPEED THAN THE PURSUING SCOUTCRAFT!

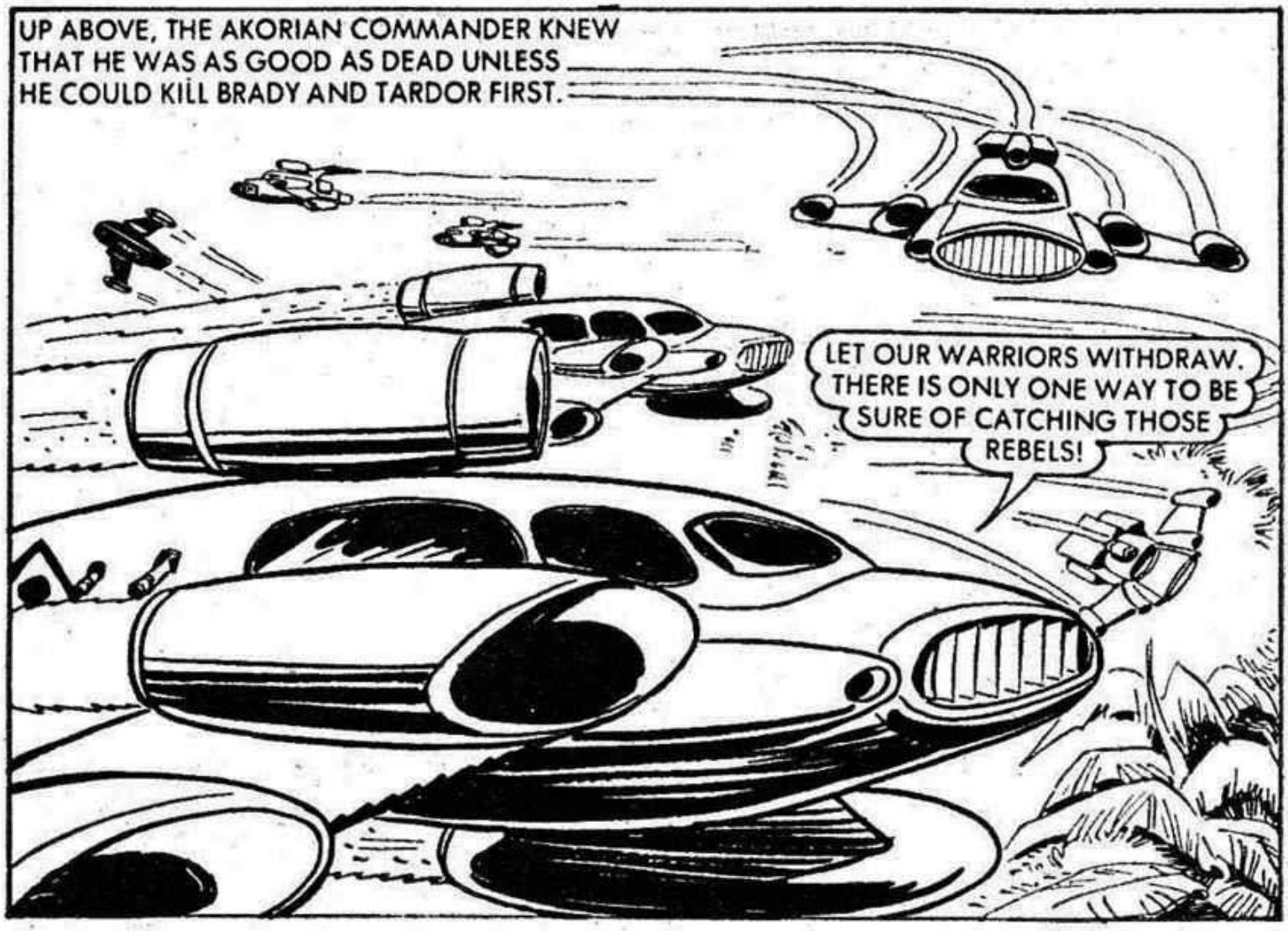
TARDOR AND BRADY FOUGHT HARD TO ESCAPE.


WE'VE BEEN HIT. WE'RE OUT OF CONTROL!


IF I CAN ONLY KEEP IT LEVEL . . . DONE IT.

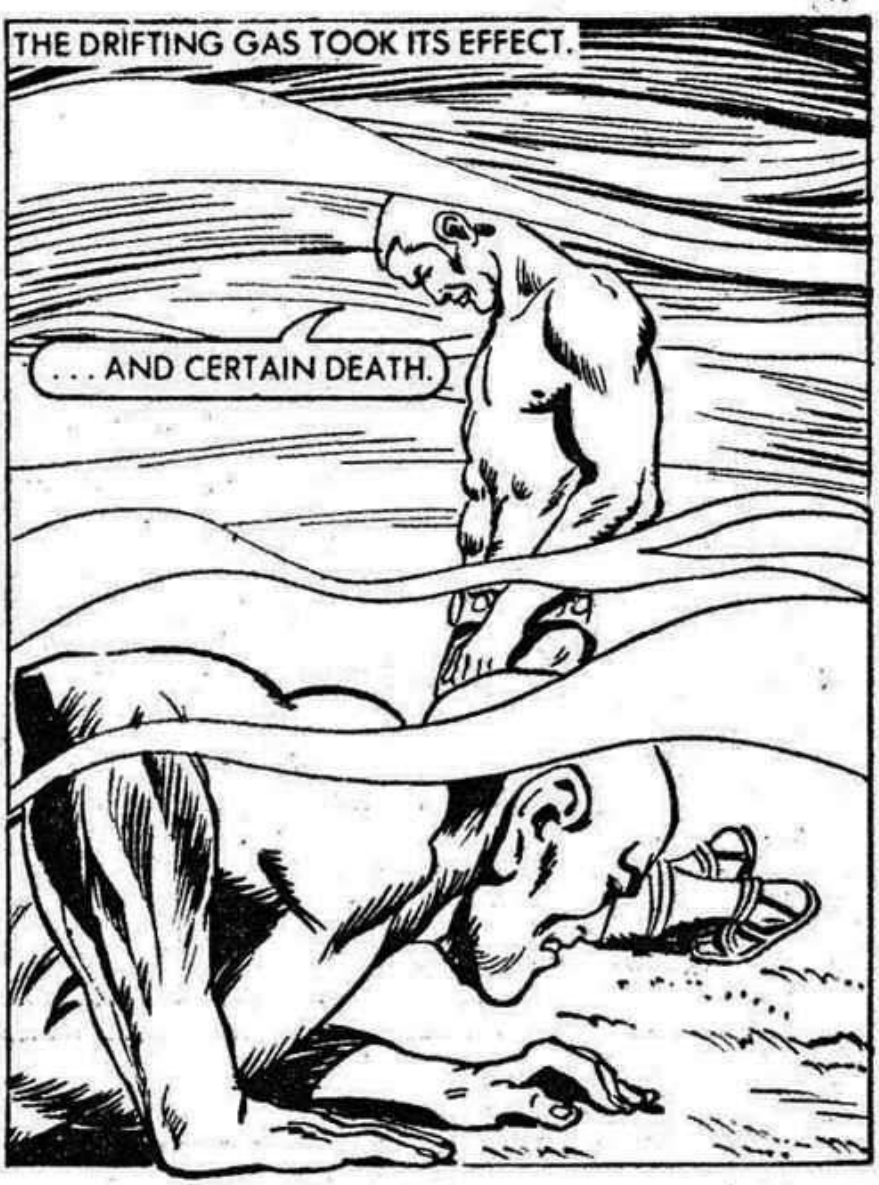
EVEN AS THE CRAFT SLID TO A HALT IN THE JUNGLE, TARDOR AND JAKE WERE RUNNING.
WE GOT OUT JUST IN TIME! THIS IS NO TIME TO SIT AROUND, TARDOR!
UGHH! MY HEAD SPINS!

BRADY AND TARDOR RACED FOR THE SAFETY OF THE FOREST, AS THE AKORIAN WARCRAFT LANDED.
AFTER THEM!
TAKE COVER— THEY FIRE.


UP ABOVE, THE AKORIAN COMMANDER KNEW THAT HE WAS AS GOOD AS DEAD UNLESS HE COULD KILL BRADY AND TARDOR FIRST.
LET OUR WARRIORS WITHDRAW. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO BE SURE OF CATCHING THOSE REBELS!

THEY'RE GOING! DON'T TELL ME THEY'VE GIVEN UP!
I FEAR NOT! THEY HAVE ANOTHER PLAN, AND WE HAVE NO DEFENCE AGAINST IT.

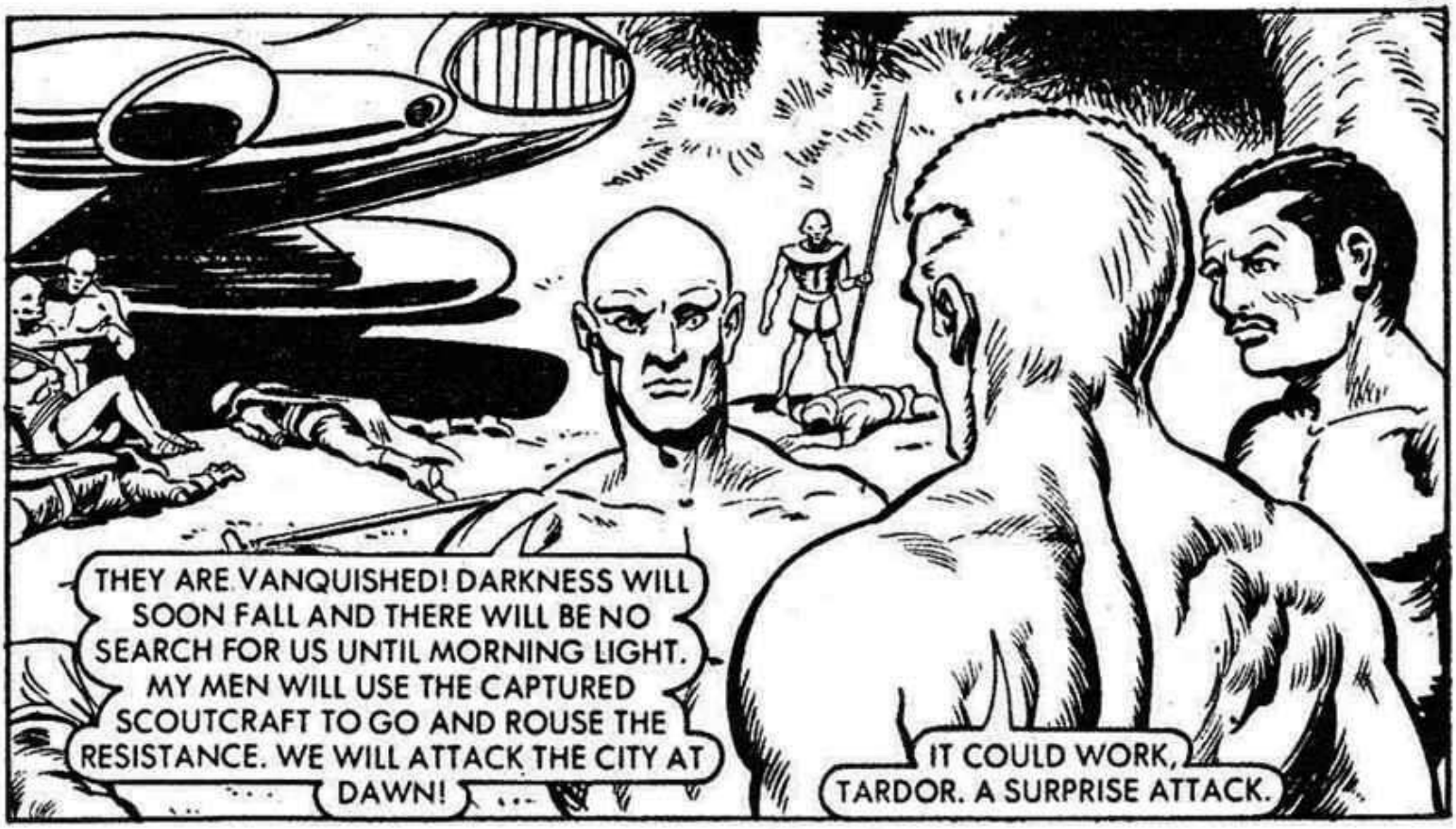
NERVE GAS! IT WILL NOT KILL. OUR FIGHT IS OVER, MY FRIEND. BACK TO THE ARENA, AND KAR . . .


THE DRIFTING GAS TOOK ITS EFFECT.
. . . AND CERTAIN DEATH.

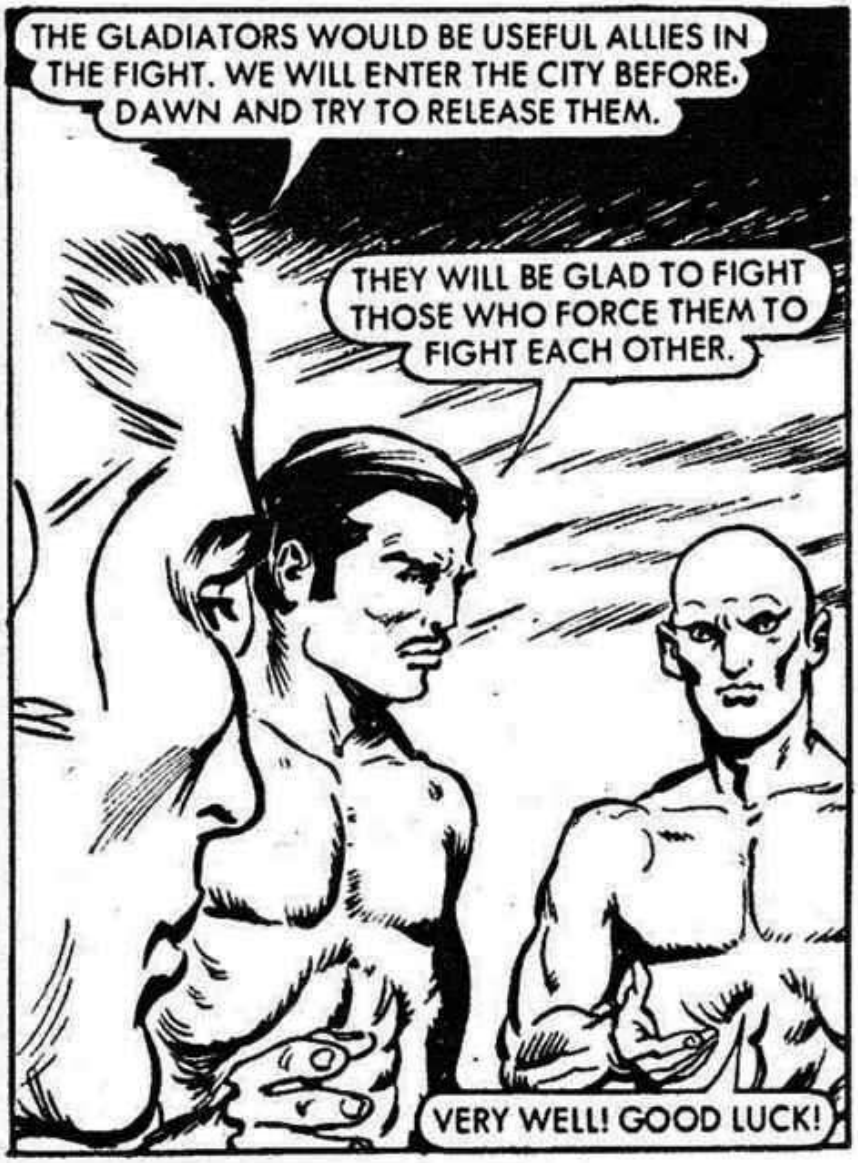
WHEN THE GAS CLEARED THE AKORIAN SCOUTCRAFT LANDED AND THE TWO MEN WERE DRAGGED AWAY FOR EXECUTION.

TARDOR'S MEN HAD SEEN THE CRAFT COME DOWN.
REBELS!
FREEDOM FOR AKOR! KILL THE TYRANTS.

THANK THE STARS YOU ARE STILL ALIVE, JAKE. I THOUGHT WE'D BE TOO LATE!


THEY ARE VANQUISHED! DARKNESS WILL SOON FALL AND THERE WILL BE NO SEARCH FOR US UNTIL MORNING LIGHT. MY MEN WILL USE THE CAPTURED SCOUTCRAFT TO GO AND ROUSE THE RESISTANCE. WE WILL ATTACK THE CITY AT DAWN!
IT COULD WORK, TARDOR. A SURPRISE ATTACK.

IT WILL WORK! IT MUST! THE PEOPLE OF AKOR HAVE SUFFERED TOO LONG. AKOR MUST TAKE ITS PLACE IN THE GALACTIC FEDERATION.

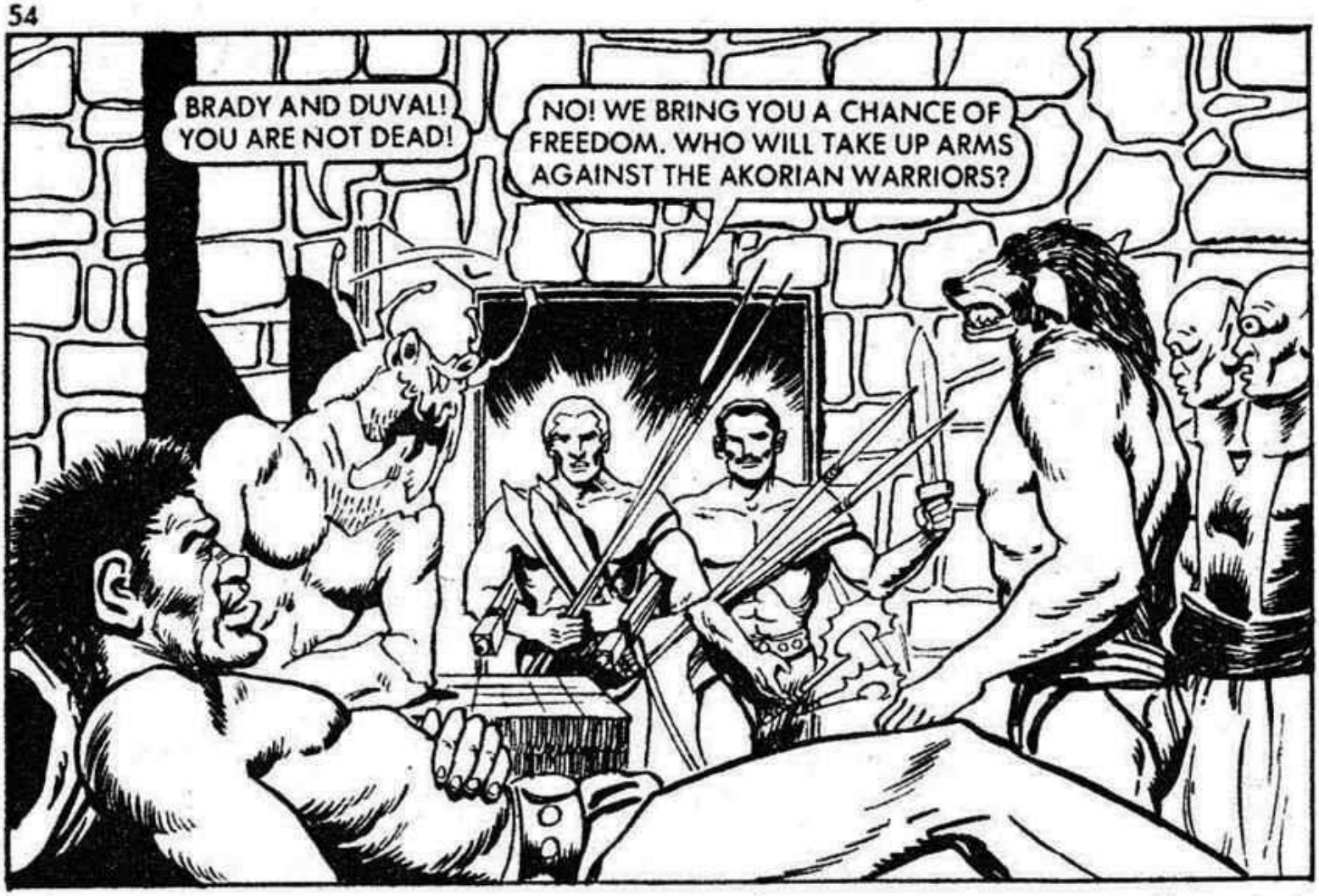

THE GLADIATORS WOULD BE USEFUL ALLIES IN THE FIGHT. WE WILL ENTER THE CITY BEFORE DAWN AND TRY TO RELEASE THEM.
THEY WILL BE GLAD TO FIGHT THOSE WHO FORCE THEM TO FIGHT EACH OTHER.
VERY WELL! GOOD LUCK!

UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS, TARDOR LANDED ONE OF THE CAPTURED SCOUTCRAFT AS CLOSE TO THE CITY AS HE DARED.
MAY GOOD FORTUNE GO WITH YOU.

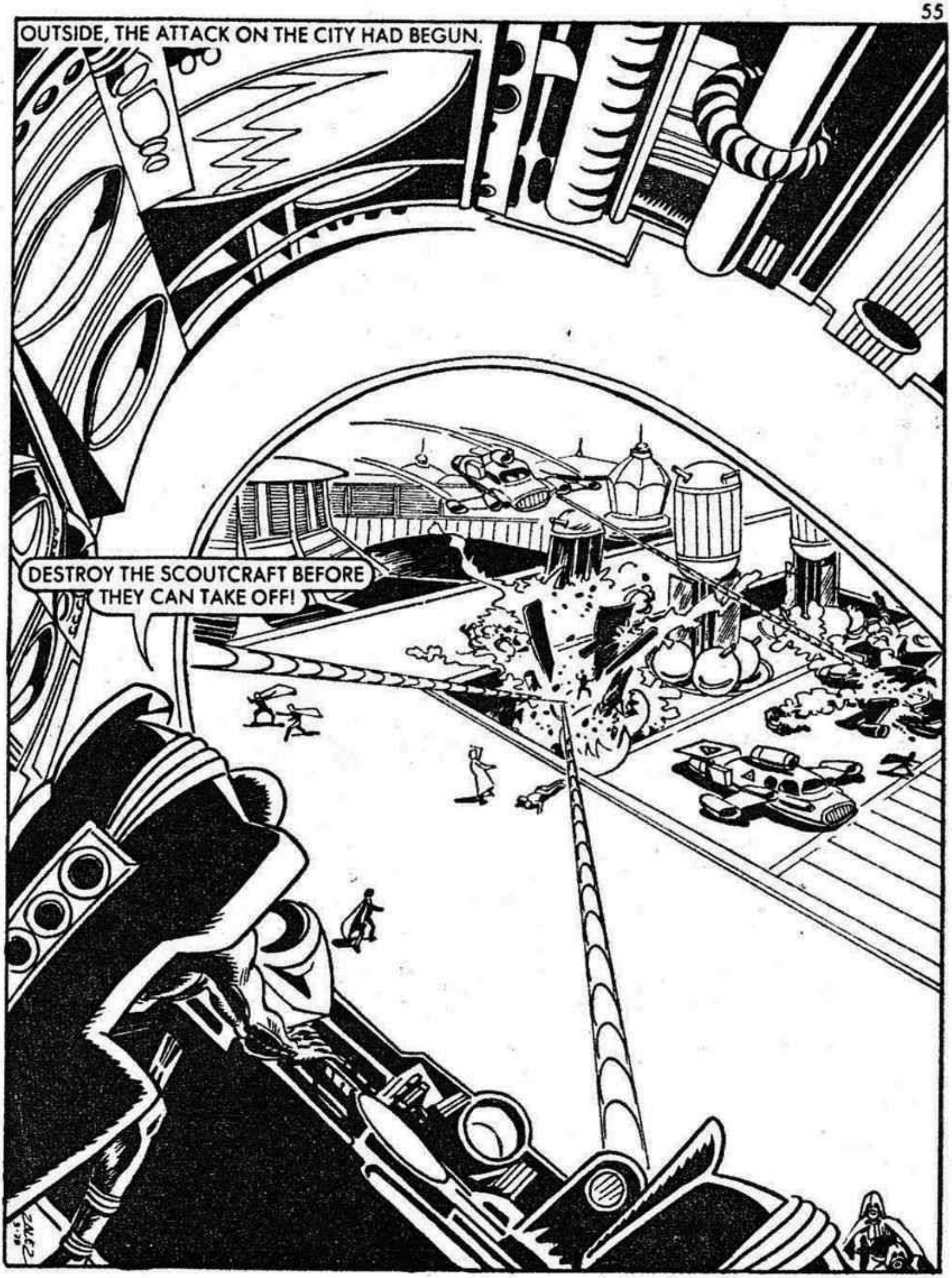
IT'S GOING TO BE A TOUGH WALL TO SCALE, DREW.
THERE IS NO NEED TO CLIMB. WE CAN ENTER THROUGH THE LION DOGS' TUNNEL.

THE LION DOGS JOSTLED AND SNARLED, BUT DID NOT ATTACK.
STAY CLOSE, JAKE. WITH LUCK THE SCENT OF THE NECKBAND WILL PROTECT YOU, TOO.
ALL CLEAR. THE ARENA IS DESERTED. LET'S GO!

THEY REACHED THE GUARDS' QUARTERS UNDETECTED.
BY THE RINGED MOON! WHA . . . !!


BRADY AND DUVAL! YOU ARE NOT DEAD!
NO! WE BRING YOU A CHANCE OF FREEDOM. WHO WILL TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST THE AKORIAN WARRIORS?

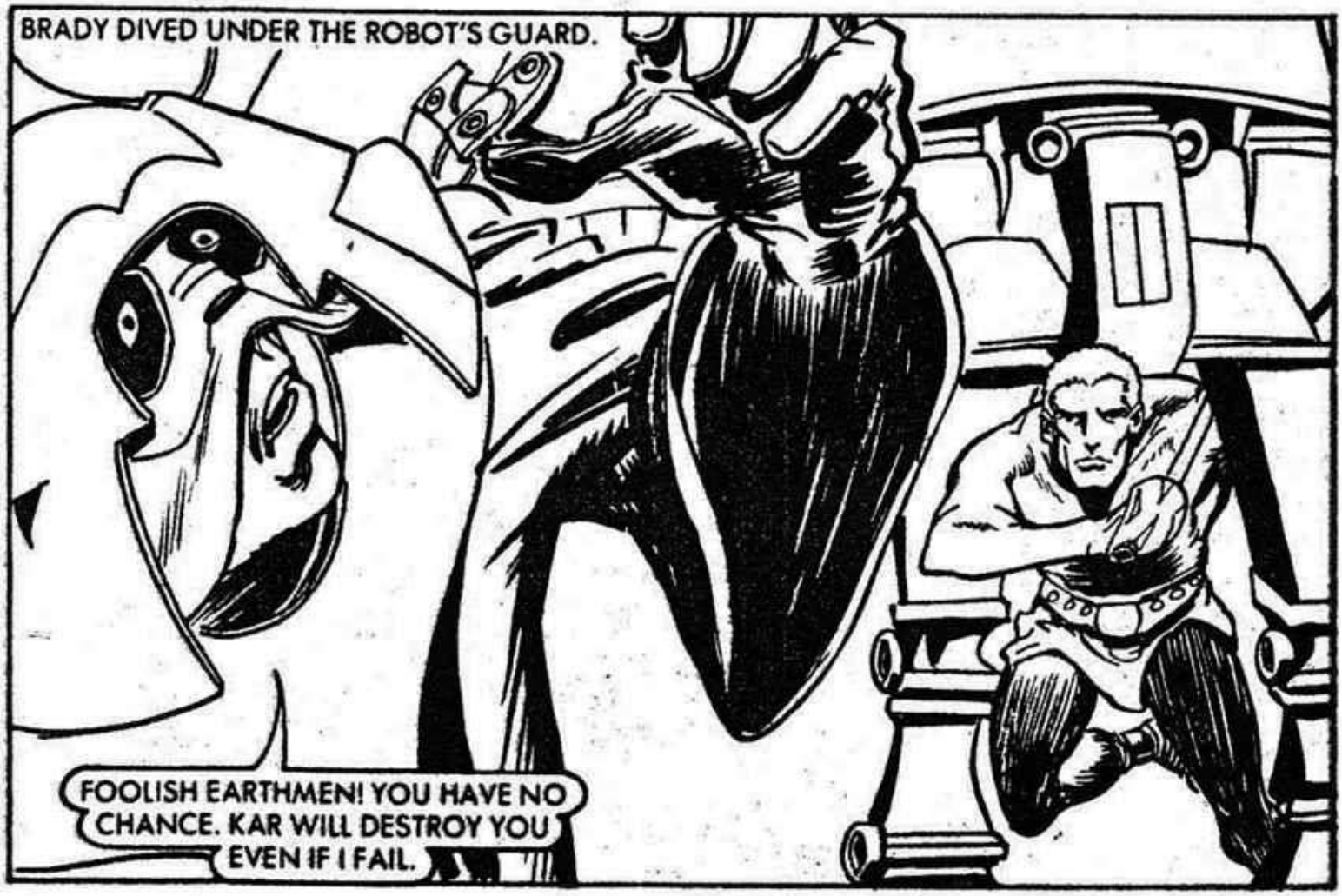
THE GLADIATORS SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY.
DIE, AKORIANS!
FREEDOM!


OUTSIDE, THE ATTACK ON THE CITY HAD BEGUN.
DESTROY THE SCOUTCRAFT BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE OFF!

THE AKORIAN GRAND LEADER WAS FURIOUS.
MY GLADIATORS IN REVOLT! I WILL PERSONALLY SEE TO ALL OF THEM . . . WITH KAR, THE KILLER ROBOT.

THE LEADER OF AKOR HURRIED TO THE ARENA.
I SHALL ACTIVATE KAR THEN LIE LOW TILL HE HAS CONQUERED.
THE LEADER SET KAR ON A COURSE FOR THE REBELS.
WE'RE ON A HIDING TO NOTHING. PULL BACK!

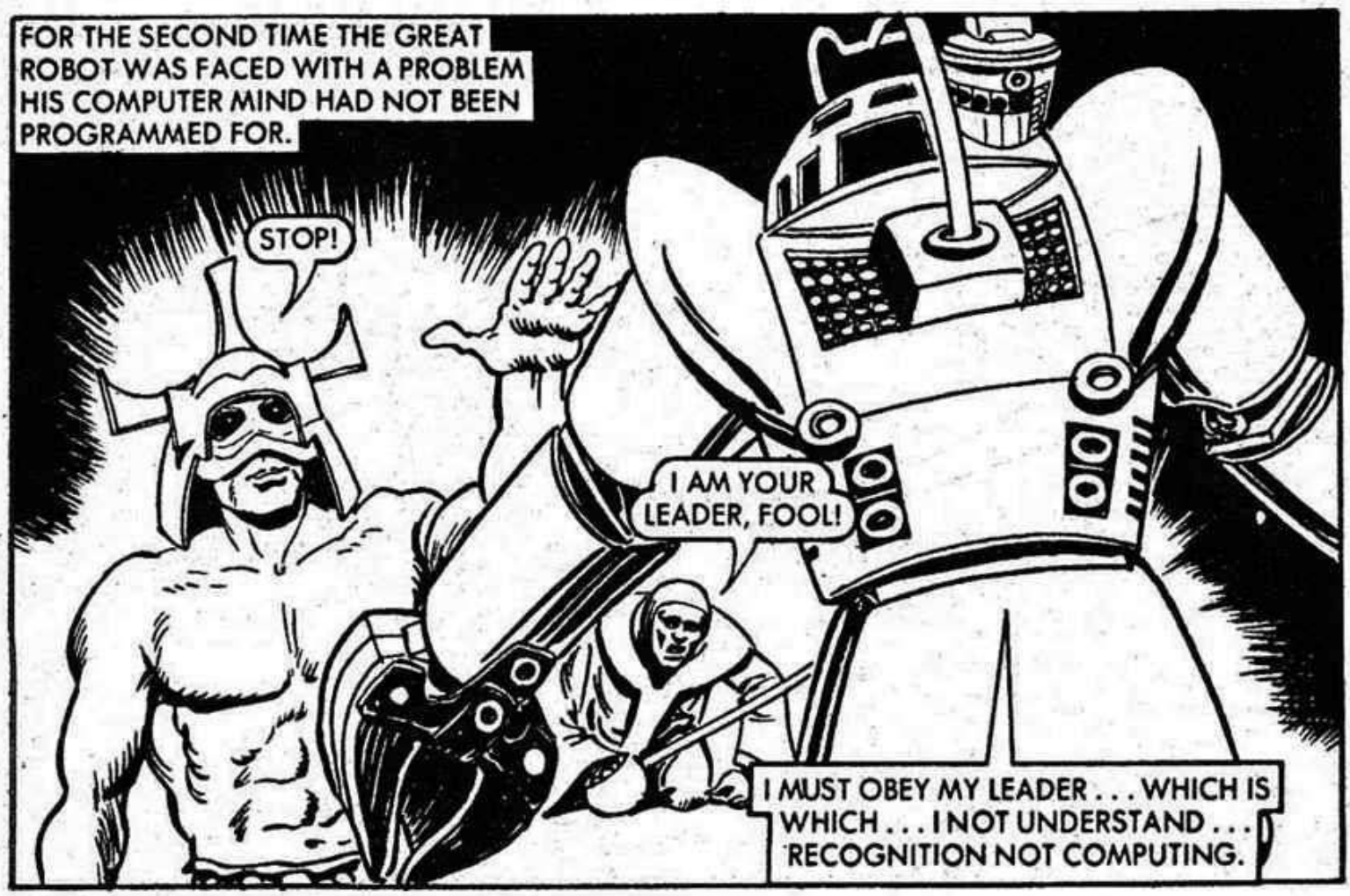
THE GLADIATORS RETREATED.
IT'S THE AKORIAN GRAND LEADER.

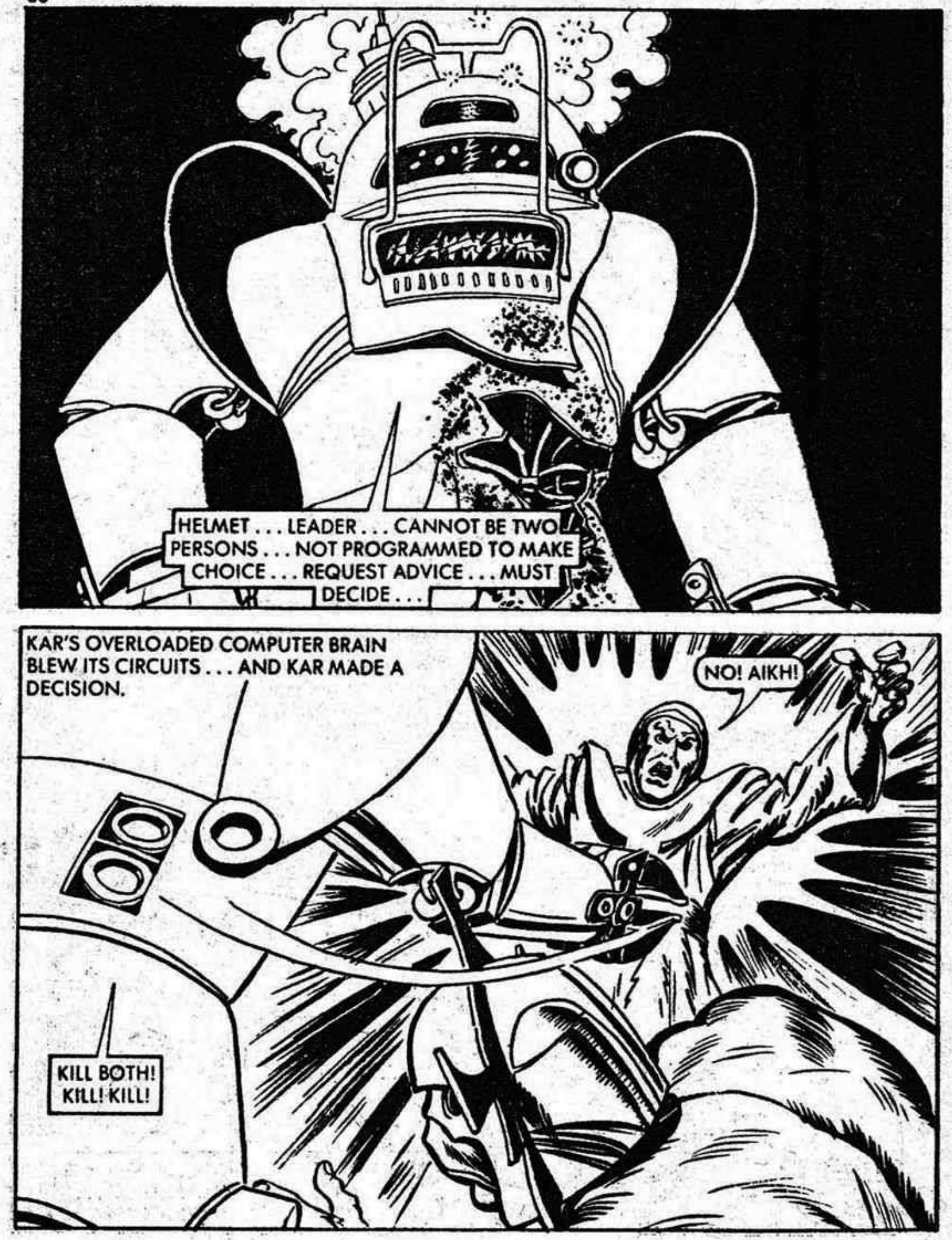

BRADY DIVED UNDER THE ROBOT'S GUARD.
FOOLISH EARTHMEN! YOU HAVE NO CHANCE. KAR WILL DESTROY YOU EVEN IF I FAIL.

MAYBE SO! BUT YOUR RULE WILL BE FINISHED.

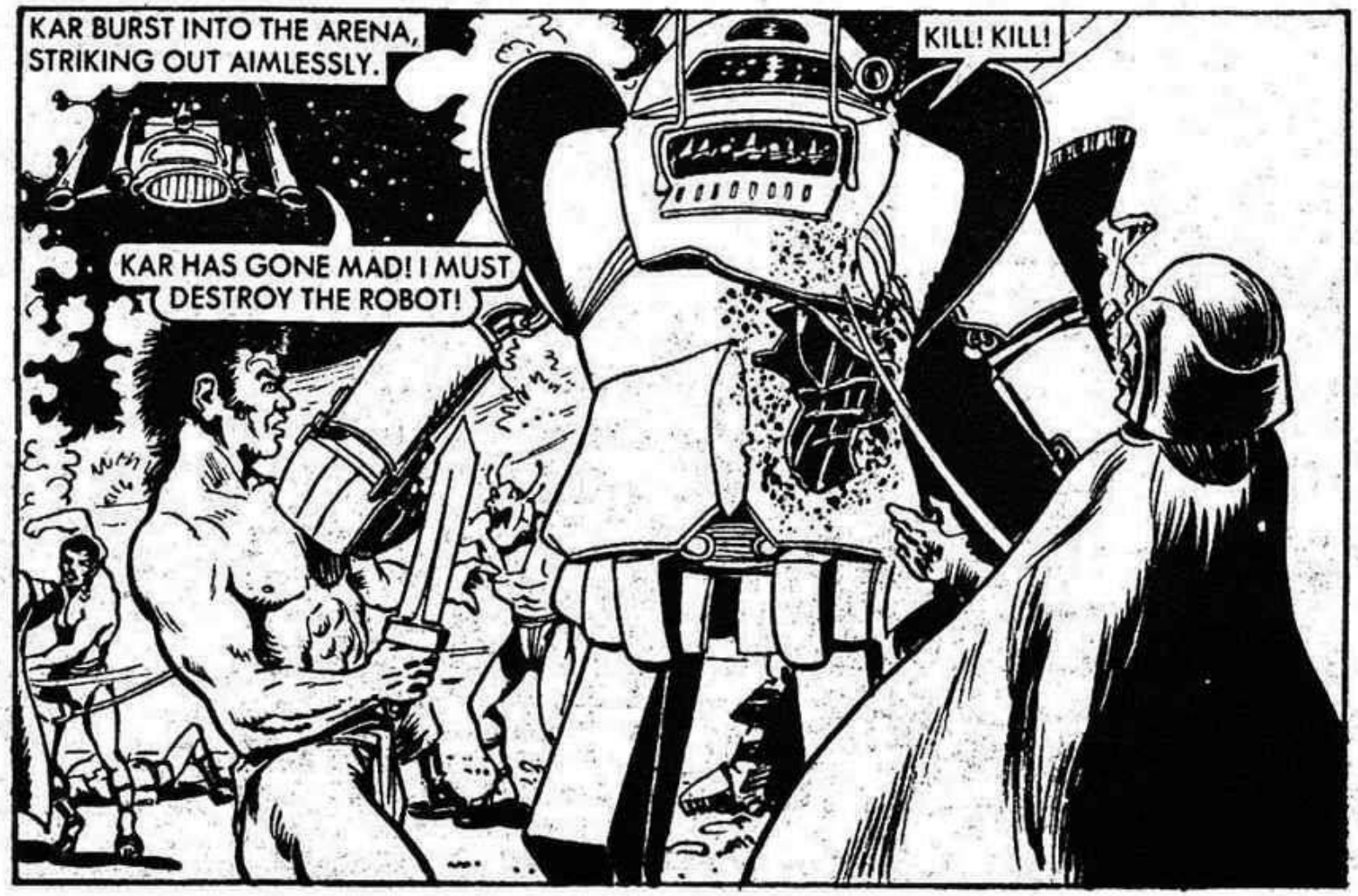
BRADY HAD NO TIME FOR SWORDPLAY.

THE HELMET! IT MIGHT WORK . . .


FOR THE SECOND TIME THE GREAT ROBOT WAS FACED WITH A PROBLEM HIS COMPUTER MIND HAD NOT BEEN PROGRAMMED FOR.
STOP!
I AM YOUR LEADER, FOOL!
I MUST OBEY MY LEADER . . . WHICH IS WHICH . . . I NOT UNDERSTAND . . . RECOGNITION NOT COMPUTING.


HELMET . . . LEADER . . . CANNOT BE TWO PERSONS . . . NOT PROGRAMMED TO MAKE CHOICE . . . REQUEST ADVICE . . . MUST DECIDE . . .
KAR'S OVERLOADED COMPUTER BRAIN BLEW ITS CIRCUITS . . . AND KAR MADE A DECISION.
NO! AIKH!
KILL BOTH! KILL! KILL!

KILL! KILL!

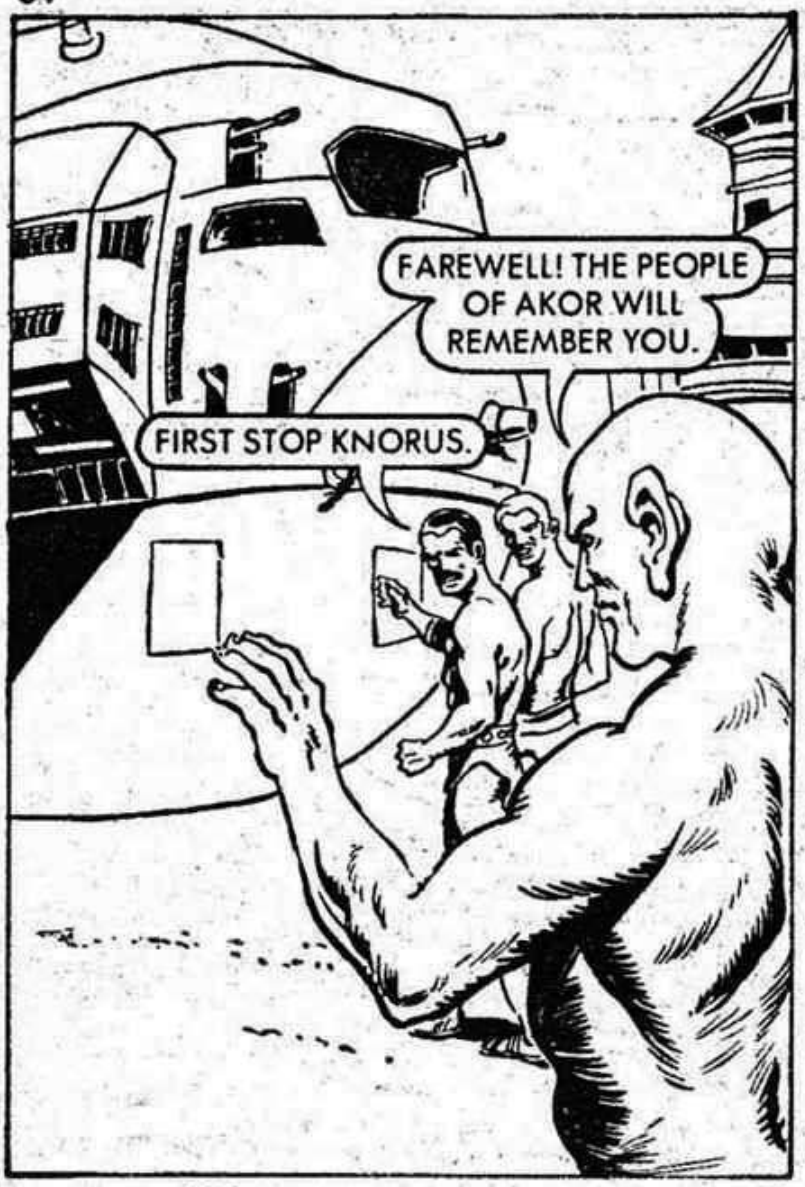

KAR BURST INTO THE ARENA, STRIKING OUT AIMLESSLY.
KILL! KILL!
KAR HAS GONE MAD! I MUST DESTROY THE ROBOT!

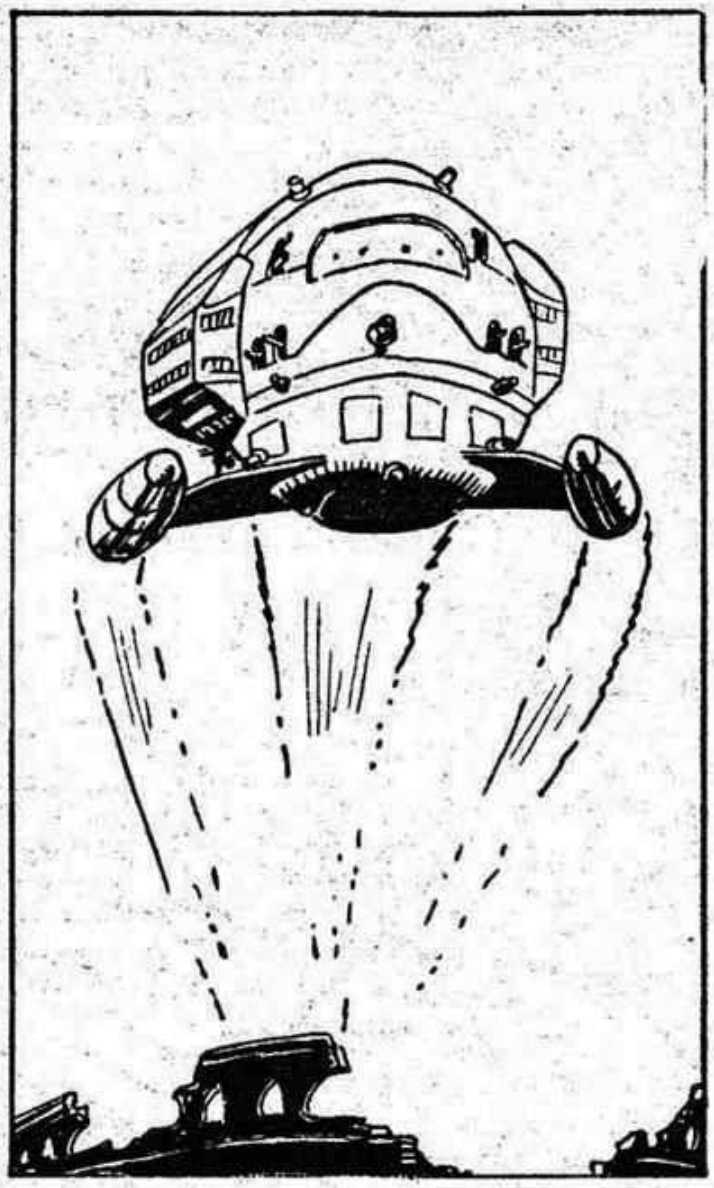
KILL! DESTROY!

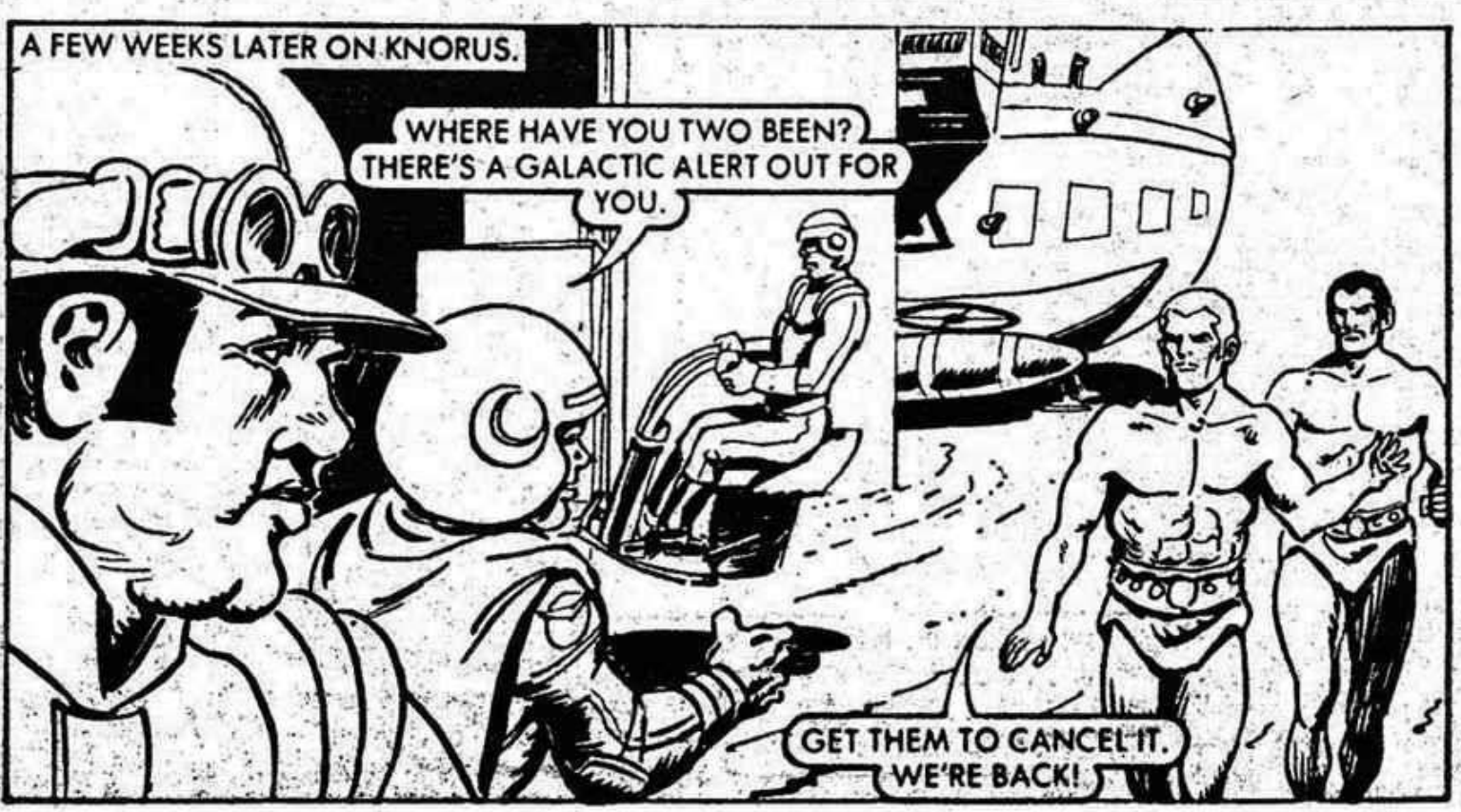
HE WAS ONLY A ROBOT BUT I CAN'T HELP FEELING SORRY FOR HIM. HE WAS PROGRAMMED TO BE EVIL! THINK OF ALL THE GOOD HE COULD HAVE DONE.
JUST THE SAME, I AM GLAD TO SEE THE END OF HIM.

WITH THEIR LEADER DEAD, THE AKORIAN WARRIORS LOST THE WILL TO FIGHT.
WE HAVE WON. THIS SHATTERED CITY WILL BE REBUILT—WITHOUT THE ARENA, THERE WILL BE NO MORE KILLER ROBOTS.

WE HAVE YOU TO THANK, MY FRIENDS. YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY—WE NEED MEN OF YOUR CALIBRE.
YOU ARE VERY KIND, TARDOR. BUT WE'VE BOTH GOT FREIGHT-SHIPS WAITING ON KNORUS.
WE ARE BOTH WANDERERS, TARDOR! ANYWAY, YOU HAVE THE GLADIATORS TO HELP YOU . . . THEY ARE LOYAL AND GRATEFUL TO YOU!


FAREWELL! THE PEOPLE OF AKOR WILL REMEMBER YOU.
FIRST STOP KNORUS.




A FEW WEEKS LATER ON KNORUS.
WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN? THERE'S A GALACTIC ALERT OUT FOR YOU.
GET THEM TO CANCEL IT. WE'RE BACK!

IT'S BEEN PRETTY BORING AROUND HERE! HOW'S ABOUT A FIGHT?

NO THANKS. WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF FIGHTING FOR A WHILE.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR TALK LIKE THAT.

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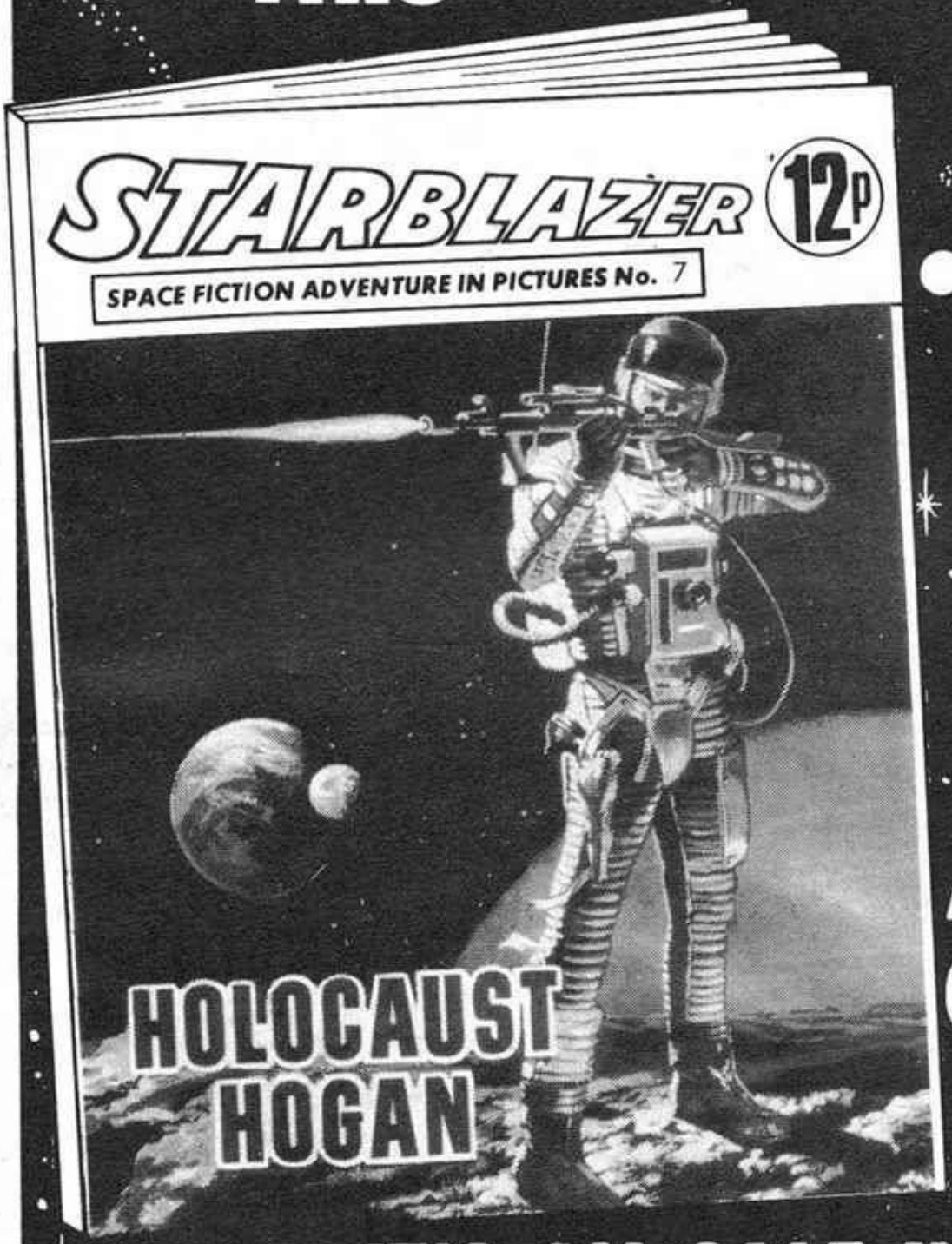
NOW THAT YOU'VE READ THIS



DON'T FORGET THAT THERE'S ANOTHER ONE THIS MONTH

IT'S ON SALE IN YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!

STARBLAZERS
IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE (6)

On 12 April 1961, Russia announced that Yuri Gagarin had been launched into orbit and had been safely recovered after a flight lasting 108 minutes. Gagarin was 27 years old when he became the first man in Space. He tragically died in an air crash seven years later.